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CONTENTS

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

15 September Middle East and South Asia Review 1

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

Israel Said To Plot 'Arafat Assassination *[Cairo AL-SHA'B 13 Sep]* 3
'Text' of 'Arafat Strasbourg Speech *[Sanaa VOP]* 3
'Arafat Prepared To Meet 'Any Israeli Official' *[Paris]* 8
PLO Radio Urges Further 'Even-handedness' *[Baghdad Voice of the PLO]* 9
PLO's Khalaf Cited on PLO Initiatives, Moves *[WAKH]* 9
Hani al-Hasan on Provisional Government *[Kuwait AL-ANBA' 11 Sep]* 10
Dissident Groups Denounce 'Arafat Policies 11

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Official Holds Talks With Visiting Soviet Envoy 13

Egypt

Omani State Minister Comments on Gulf Issues 13
Leaves Cairo 14 Sep 13
Nigeria's Babangida Sends Message to Mubarak 13
'Arafat's Visit to European Parliament Viewed 13
Paper Comments on 'Arafat's Remarks 14

Libya

SFRY's Milosavljevic Arrives 14 Sep 14
Former Diplomat on Al-Qadhdhafi Activities 15

Sudan

Soviet Envoy Interviewed on Aid, Regional Issues *[Kuwait AL-ANBA' 9 Sep]* 15

Tunisia

Islamic Tendency Leaders Allowed Home *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 14 Sep]* 17
AFP on President's Visit To France 17

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

U.S. Envoy Called Over Accusations Against Iraq 18
Paper on U.S. Concepts of Justice, Human Rights *[AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM 10 Sep]* 18
Algerian Envoy Assesses Visit, Leaves for UAE 18

Qatar

Government Denounces 'Allegations' Against Iraq 19

Saudi Arabia

U.S. 'Cautious Approach' on Middle East Viewed 19

Yemen Arab Republic

Government on 'Unjust Campaign' Against Iraq 19

IRAQ

Delegation Agrees to October Meeting in New York 20
Staff General on U.S. 'Pressuring' at Talks 20
Undersecretary on Geneva Talks, Other Issues 21
Tariq 'Aziz Returns From Talks in Geneva 21
Details Reported on Iranian 12-13 Sep Violations 21
Further on Criticism of U.S. Senate Decision 22
Students Hold Rally 22
TV Film Shows 'Ugly Crimes' 22
USSR Community Condemns U.S. 23
Papers Criticize U.S. Senate Boycott Decision 23
Senate Termed 'Zionist Knesset' 23
Paper on 'Conspiracy' 25
'Criminal Campaign' Viewed 25
Dailies Attack 'Propaganda' 26
19,275 Kurds Return Under Amnesty Program 26
Kurds Allocated Land 26
Interior Minister Returns From SFRY 11 Sep 27
Briefs 27
New Ambassador 27

ISRAEL

Prime Minister Shamir Begins Visit to Hungary *[cross-reference]* 28
Rabin Denies Suggesting PLO Peace Partner *[THE JERUSALEM POST 15 Sep]* 28
Minister Says Egyptians Disrupting Navigation 28
First USSR Orchestra To Visit Arrives 28
More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories 28
'Cooperating' Arab Murdered 28
7 Wounded by IDF at Khan Yunus 28
3 Wounded by IDF in Al-Shati' 29
IDF Shoots Gazan 29
Air Force Revises Training To Reduce Dangers *[THE JERUSALEM POST 15 Sep]* 29
Military Viewed as More Aware Than Politicians *[AL-NAHAR 8 Sep]* 29

JORDAN

Preparations Underway for Meeting With PLO *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 31
Papers Assail U.S. Stand Against Iraq 31
AL-RA'Y Charges 'Hypocrisy' *[11 Sep]* 31
AL-RA'Y on 'Western Imperialist' *[12 Sep]* 32
SAWT AL-SHA'B: 'Unjust' Campaign *[12 Sep]* 32
TIMES Calls U.S. Candidates 'Gladiators' *[11 Sep]* 33

LEBANON

Syrian Defense Minister Arrives To Inspect Troops *[RFL]* 34
New Group Claims Attempted Abduction of American *[AFP]* 34

Museum Crossing Point Reopens 15 Sep *[VOL]* 34
Birri, Dastmalchiyan Discuss Amal, Hizballah 34
Israeli Aircraft Overfly Sidon, Camps 34
Resistance Group Attacks Israelis, Other Targets 34
Explosive Charge Wounds 2 Southern Army Soldiers *[VOL]* 35
Syrian Position Attacked; 2 Soldiers Wounded *[RFL]* 35
Amal Releases 23 Palestinian Detainees 35
Al-Huss Receives Messages From Algerian Leaders 35

SYRIA

Al-Shar', Richard Murphy Hold Talks 14 Sep 36
Khaddam Affirms Stand to Murphy 36
Interview With Foreign Minister Reported *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 10 Sep]* 36
LE MONDE Interview *[13 Sep]* 37

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Spokesman Criticizes Pakistani 'Propaganda' 39
Mujahidin Continue Military Operations 39
Active on Salang Highway *[Islamabad]* 39
'Setbacks' for Kabul Noted *[Islamabad]* 40
2 Areas in Qandahar Captured *[Islamabad]* 40
Earth Tremor Shakes Kabul City 14 Sep 40

India

Government Expresses Hope for Democracy in Burma 40
Reportage on Continuing Violence in Punjab 40
5 'Terrorists' Killed 40
Police on 'Maximum Alert' 41
2 'Hard-Core Terrorists' Killed 41

Iran

Musavi Thanks Departing Ministers for Service 41
Majlis Debates Cabinet Appointments 41
Commentary Views Post-War Role of Majlis 42
Navy To Carry Out Minesweeping Operations 43
Departure of 'Vincennes' From Gulf Noted 43
Commentary on Lebanese Presidential Elections 43
Montazeri Presents Donated Funds to Navy Chief 44
Khamene'i, Envoy to Angola, Zimbabwe Confer 44
UN Seeks Iraq Visit To Investigate Charges 45
UN Inquiry Into Iraq's Use of Toxic Gas Urged 45
Kurdish Party Statement on Iraqi Use of Toxins 46
Kurdish Leader Appeals to UN on Iraqi 'Genocide' 46
UN Group Calls 23 Aug Iraqi Attack 'Illegal' 47
Iraq Reportedly Executes 17 Returned Kurds 47
Egyptian 'Mercenaries' Captured in 1983 Freed 47
Foreign Ministry Statement 47
Disabled Iraqi POW's Released to Red Cross 47
Further on Geneva Talks on UN Resolution 47
Velayati Returns, Comments 47
IRNA Views Geneva Talks 48
Iraqi Deputy Premier's Remarks on 1913 Pact Noted 50
Volunteer Troops Dispatched to Fronts 50
Forces Leave for Western, Southern Borders 50
Popular Volunteers Leave for Fronts 50

Syrian Ba'th Party Chief Meets With Mir Salim 51
'Preliminary' Delegation Leaves for PRC 51
Parliamentary Delegation Departs for IPU Talks 51
FRG Envoy Hands Genscher Message to Larijani 51
GDR Heavy Machinery Minister Arrives for Talks 51
Meets Construction Jihad Official 51
Meets With Mo'ayeri 52
Received by Oil Minister 52
Discusses Cooperation With Shafe'i 52
Confers With Mines Minister 52
Industrial Agreement Signed 53
Algerian Economic Delegation Arrives 13 Sep 53
Meets With Nabavi 53
Received by Musavi 53
Visits International Trade Fair 53
Reportage on Visit of ROK Trade Official 54
Discusses Cooperation 54
Confers With Musavi 54
Meets With Deputy Oil Minister 54
Last Talks With Aqazadeh 54
Larijani, Finnish Officials Discuss Relations 55
Polish Construction Minister Meets Counterpart 55

Pakistan

Afghan Protest Over Airspace Violation Rejected 55
Spokesman on Afghan Violations 55
French MP Visits Refugee Camp Near Peshawar *[AFP]* 56
Interior Minister Sees Foreign Hand in Clashes 56

Sri Lanka

PKF To Observe 5-Day Cease-Fire for Election *[Delhi]* 56
Situation Quiet in Colombo 57
Two Tamil Groups Welcome Release of Detainees *[Delhi]* 57

15 September Middle East and South Asia Review

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Iran-Iraq Negotiations

Iraq has clearly explained that it cannot accept New York as a venue for longstanding and detailed negotiations because of "security and political considerations resulting from the current malicious campaign against Iraq and for other practical reasons," the Iraqi delegation at Geneva announced in a statement broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio.

The statement confirmed Iraq's willingness to hold a meeting in New York during the first week of October provided this is soon followed by the resumption of direct negotiations in Geneva, but it expressed regret that the UN secretary general's personal representative has not yet announced a specific date for the resumption of negotiations in Geneva.

For Iran's part, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati told Tehran radio on his return from Geneva that the contrast between Iraq's "negative" stands and Iran's "positive" stands is having an increasing impact on the world mass media.

IRNA reported a statement by the UNIIMOG commander expressing support for Iran's demand for the release of 752 Iranian soldiers allegedly captured by Iraq during a 23 August Iraqi cease-fire violation.

Meanwhile, Iran released 16 Egyptian "mercenaries" detained for violating Iranian territorial waters in 1983, IRNA noted. An Egyptian official cited by AFP said their release is a "positive initiative" contributing to peace.

The Iran-Iraq negotiations and "current issues related to the post cease-fire era" were discussed during talks in Moscow between Iraqi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'dun Hammadi and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, INA reported.

According to TASS, Shevardnadze stressed the importance of preventing any delay in the negotiations and said everything must be done to stop the peace process breaking down. The Soviet side also "took note" of Hammadi's affirmation that Iraq has never used chemical weapons (CW) against its Kurdish population.

Kurds and the Chemical Weapons Issue

Turkey has a "negative" response to calls for the dispatch of a UN team of experts to Turkey to investigate allegations of chemical weapons [CW] use against Kurdish refugees, the Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman announced in a statement cited by Ankara radio.

Noting that Turkish experts have failed to uncover evidence confirming the claims, the spokesman said the sending of a UN team would be an "unfortunate" move that would involve Turkey directly in the issue and would create the "erroneous" impression that Turkish doctors are unable to recognize the injuries or symptoms caused by CW.

However, the spokesman affirmed Turkey will take a "favorable" stand toward the dispatch of an IRC mission to investigate the CW issue, ANATOLIA noted.

Kurdish refugees arriving in Iran accused the Iraqi authorities of executing 17 Kurds who had returned from Turkey in accordance with the amnesty, IRNA reported.

Israel

Foreign Affairs—Israel and Hungary have decided to establish full diplomatic relations, though this will be done "by stages," Jerusalem television disclosed in a report on Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's visit to Budapest.

A major part of Shamir's talks with Hungarian leaders focused on economic issues, Jerusalem radio stated, and the two sides agreed to establish a permanent air link. In an interview with IDF radio, Shamir said that trade between the two countries is "developing very nicely" and he noted that Hungary is interested in purchasing Israeli technology.

In London, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told Jerusalem radio he was "very encouraged" by his talks with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who "will categorically oppose the establishment of a Palestinian government-in-exile" and who "thinks that a Palestinian state is not a good idea at all."

Territories—An Arab youth was shot dead by an IDF commander after a firebomb was hurled at a military patrol in the Gaza Strip, Jerusalem radio reported.

At least 10 other Palestinians were wounded in earlier clashes with the IDF in Gaza refugee camps, and 2 others were injured during clashes in the Nabulus area, according to IDF and Jerusalem radio reports.

A Nabulus resident was murdered because he was suspected of cooperating with security forces, Jerusalem radio disclosed.

PLO Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat announced at a Strasbourg press conference that he is ready to meet with "any" Israeli official in the United Nations if the meeting is held under UN auspices, Radio Monte Carlo reported.

On the issue of the declaration of a Palestinian "provisional government," 'Arafat indicated that the PNC decision on this will be influenced by the results of consultations with "friends and allies" and he asked whether Europe will recognize a provisional government if it is proclaimed.

'Arafat held talks with GDR leaders in East Berlin 15 September, ADN reported.

In Amman, a Jordanian official disclosed that preparations are underway to convene a meeting of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee for supporting the "steadfastness" of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, Radio Monte Carlo noted.

Jordanian representation on the committee will be headed by Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri now that Palestinian affairs come under the aegis of his ministry.

Lebanon

The situation in Lebanon was the main topic of U.S. envoy Richard Murphy's talks in Damascus with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', according to Damascus television and radio reports.

Khaddam reportedly affirmed Syria's "constant policy" toward Lebanon and its support for a national accord that will remove the causes of the Lebanese crisis.

In Beirut, prospects for reconciliation between Hizballah and the Amal Movement were discussed during a meeting between Amal leader Nabih Birri and the Iranian ambassador, Beirut radio revealed.

The radio cited a statement by the ambassador who noted that agreement was reached to adopt "practical measures to end this anomalous situation."

Tunisia

In remarks carried by Paris radio during his 12-14 September state visit to France, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali noted that Tunisia is seeking French cooperation on projects to relay a French television channel to Tunisia via satellite and to provide radar coverage for all Tunisian territory.

French President Francois Mitterrand has indicated that France will assist the radar project, the radio said.

On the internal situation, London's AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT reported that President Ben Ali has decided to allow the return of three Islamic Tendency Movement leaders who were sentenced in absentia by the State Court, which was dissolved after Ben Ali came to power.

The Movement is planning to establish itself as a political party under a new name, the paper added.

Ben Ali recently told Kuwait's AL-ANBA' that the Tunisian authorities have "lifted all barriers and obstacles obstructing the participation of all parties and political trends in national life."

Afghanistan

A Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by Kabul radio denied Pakistan's announcement that Afghan aircraft violated Pakistani airspace 12 September and that two Afghan planes were shot down during the incident.

Such "baseless and false claims" are part of a "propaganda" campaign which ignores Pakistan's own "blatant and open violation" of the Geneva accords, the spokesman said.

It is "no surprise" that Pakistan rejected Afghanistan's proposal for the establishment of a special commission to monitor violations of the Geneva accords because an objective inquiry would further prove the "baseless nature" of Pakistani claims, he added.

In Moscow, Foreign Ministry official Gennadiy Gerasimov told journalists that Afghan military aircraft did not violate Pakistani airspace 12 September and he said the report about a dogfight between Pakistani and Afghan aircraft was an "obvious fabrication," TASS reported.

Palestinian Affairs

Israel Said To Plot 'Arafat Assassination

PM1509113588 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 13 Sep 88 p 1

[Mahmud Bakri report: "New Developments Regarding Plot To Assassinate 'Arafat"]

[Text] Well-informed Arab sources have given AL-SHA'B fresh details about the Israeli Mossad's plot to assassinate Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat in Algiers before the beginning of the next PNC session.

Important talks were held recently in the U.S. capital, Washington, between Israeli officials, including the Israeli chief of military intelligence and two Israeli military commanders, and a U.S. delegation including some leading national security officials, one of whom is an Arab-Israel affairs specialist.

The sources said that during the talks the Israeli delegation submitted a detailed report on a plan to assassinate 'Arafat. Available information indicates that the plan was outlined in 13 to 16 pages and that Israel decided to assassinate three other Palestinian leaders close to 'Arafat if the 'Arafat assassination was successful. The Israelis hold these Palestinian leaders responsible for planning the disturbances in the occupied territories.

The way the U.S.-Israeli talks proceeded denotes that Washington did not reject the Israeli plan outright but requested postponement of implementation. It also asked Israel to create the necessary atmosphere for the success of the U.S.-Egyptian-Israeli talks scheduled to be held in Washington 26 September at foreign minister level.

At a later meeting with the Israeli chief of military intelligence the U.S. officials said they wanted Israeli to work for the success of peace efforts in the coming period, but the Israeli official spoke of the grave threat posed to Israel by 'Arafat's "terrorist" designs.

'Text' of 'Arafat Strasbourg Speech

JN1409190688 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1603 GMT 14 Sep 88

["Text" of speech delivered by Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, before the Socialist Group at the European Parliament in Strasbourg on 13 September]

[Text] Ladies and Gentlemen: It is a pleasure for me to receive and accept the invitation that you extended to me to address this session in the hope that this would lead to reaching further common understanding on the issue of the Palestinian people and the Arab-Israeli conflict, the crux and pivot of which is represented by the Palestine question.

We need the honest [word indistinct] which enters the heart and makes its way to the conscience, enlightening it and increasing the interaction of the conscience with the mind [words indistinct]. I seek to address your conscience and minds and I am entirely convinced that the best weapon that can be used in tackling the Palestine question is your weapon which addresses the mind but at the same time interacts with the conscience. I also attach a great importance to talking and holding a dialogue with you, as you are parliamentarians who represent the avant-garde elite; namely, the organizations which granted you their confidence, and consequently authorized you to change words into laws.

Hence, I do not view the parliamentarian just as a politician or just as a representative of his people. Nay, I see in him a conscience, a mind, and a special responsibility, as the one who produces legislation cannot be separated from justice, as justice is the twin of law. Furthermore, it is also the twin of peace, as there can be no peace without justice, and there can be no durable stability in the absence of a genuine peace.

As I am convinced that the points which I referred to are human and universal rules of conduct, allow me to say that the evidence to the presence of honesty and seriousness in identifying with democracy, freedom, national independence, peace, and justice lies in the belief in the other's right to enjoy all this, as the exclusive enjoyment of these rights by one or a group of peoples contravenes all of these meanings, as this would become a sort of vicious selfishness which conceals a masked dictatorship. Democracy, freedom, national independence, human rights, peace, and justice are rights to be enjoyed by all mankind.

And this is the axiom that has been reiterated by the history of mankind. It is natural that our speech will tackle the issue of the Palestinian people's right to freedom, independence, peace, and stability. The Palestinian people have been struggling for approximately 1 century in this strategically important part of the world—the part which overlaps with Europe. One party to the conflict—namely Israel—has become a nuclear power.

Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, the European socialist movement, alongside with other movements in the Western world, exerted a special effort to bring about the establishment of the State of Israel. It never dawned on anybody's mind that the result of the international policy would be the problem's solution of the victims of Nazism at the expense of the Palestinian people. Thus, our people have become a victim of the victim and its allies without a homeland, without an identity and a belonging, and without the most basic human rights. Fifty percent of these people have been scattered throughout the world, while 40 percent of these people have been living under the yoke of the hateful occupation.

Ladies and gentlemen, I think that you agree with me when I describe this status as an indescribable torture for our people and as the most difficult type of oppression to which our people are being subjected in our modern age. Out of this, I think that you currently shoulder, alongside others in the Western world, the ethical, moral, and political responsibility for working to regain the national rights to this people, especially when we take into account that the Palestinian people have neither committed any aggression against anybody, nor have they exercised throughout their history any discrimination based on race, color, creed, or religion. Nay, these people have given the world its three heavenly religions; namely, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, international law is binding to all parties. Furthermore, conveying truth to the world public is the biggest weapon confronted by the states and world blocs if their policies and objectives deviate from the pursuit of peace and justice. There is no doubt that nobody should be allowed to violate international law and the international legitimacy as a course and a framework for resolving international problems, including the Palestinian question.

We all know that the establishment of the State of Israel was a result of an international stand and decision whose pivot was the superpowers in the age after the two world wars, the first and the second. In this context, I refer to what former Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban said that international legislation, represented by the division Resolution 181 issued by the United Nations General Assembly, is the only birth certificate of the Israeli state. When Israel signed the Lausanne protocol, it adhered to the implementation of this resolution on condition that it be accepted as a member of the United Nations.

Israel is the only state that got its membership with the United Nations on a defined condition. Nay, it is the only state for which international legislation set the bases of its relations with the Arab state in Palestine. I believe that you agree with me that the reason for the continued Palestinian-Israeli conflict goes back to the denial of these international resolutions and the lack of seriousness in working toward finding a just and permanent solution to the question of Palestine.

At the moment, we are witnessing the start of a trend toward international accord to entrench international peace by disarmament for the benefit of economic, political, and educational cooperation and solving regional disputes through peaceful means. Here, we have the chance to provide the international circumstances to reach a just political settlement to the Palestinian people's question. The resolutions of the Arab summits dealing with the question of Palestine, especially in the two summits of Fes and Algiers, depended on international legitimacy and resolutions which were approved by our PNC in its successive session and affirmed in the 18th session held in Algiers.

Mr Chairman and members, I know that you have many important queries, especially on the historic steadfastness of the Palestinian people through their popular uprising to end the occupation and achieve independence. I admit that they are legitimate queries in principle and it is your right to get clear and precise answers to them from our side, which deal with the general framework of our thinking and our movement, without necessarily having to deal with the details, especially the sensitive ones. This is because the decision on them remains in the hands of the PNC. It is our parliament expressing all the directions and mental and political forces of our people, whether under occupation or in the diaspora.

We are proud of this parliament, its legislative position among the Palestinian people, and the democratic practices and discussions under its roof. I will not be bypassing the truth when I declare that we are a national liberation movement which has managed to compromise between the demands of revolutionary action and adherence to democratic rules, abiding by them through a parliament with full legislative powers and the observation of all the executive authorities without exception. It meets periodically and regularly. Perhaps this goes back to the nature of the PLO which is a revolution for liberation and peace with the duties of a government.

In addition to practicing all forms of legitimate struggle against the occupation, it shoulders, in accordance with rules set by the PNC and various organs for agriculture, health, industry, education, labor, and social solidarity, etc., and ever since the beginning, the affairs of the nation and the citizen under occupation and outside in all aspects of his life under the conditions of occupation and in the reality of the diaspora of our people.

I hope you will understand our reality, and not judge through the image drawn of us by Israel or the U.S. Administration. These countries are bound by a strategic alliance one of whose basic aims is to annihilate the Palestinian people's existence from history, current reality, and future, and erase the PLO as the basic party in the equation of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mr Chairman. Ladies and gentlemen. We are all very pleased to see in the long awaited international detente an end to a long phase of cold war and wars by proxy. The two superpowers have realized the importance of solving all regional conflicts through peaceful means in order to achieve comprehensive peace for all. But, with pain we feel that the U.S. policy, together with a section of the international community, does not hasten to solve a regional conflict unless it is hot and volatile.

For many years, the Palestinian people waited for the international community's justice. Regrettably, the Palestinian people and their cause were forgotten and our cause was placed, more than once, outside the sphere of

interest under different pretexts, excuses, and explanations. Therefore, it was natural for the Palestinian people to return to struggle in 1965.

Our people in the occupied territory and outside had no option but to continue their struggle, face their destiny, and pay a dear price during these confrontations and aggressions, which were forced on them in the Beirut siege; in the massacres of Sabra, Shatila, and the Burj [al-Barajinah]; in the air, land, and sea raids; and in the aggressions that are going on now in southern Lebanon against the Lebanese villages and the Palestinian camps, or against our children, women, and masses, who are now fighting a fierce battle inside the occupied territory.

The uprising demonstrates the depth of our people's awareness and their determination to resist occupation with all means available to them and to practice their legitimate right, which is guaranteed by the UN Charter and resolutions. Finally, what is happening today is that our people are facing the Israeli iron-fist policy and war machine with the stone, the child, and the youth. They bring back to memory the new picture of the Palestinian David against Goliath, who is armed with the most modern means of war and destruction.

We hoped that the picture of children carrying stones against tanks, bullets, and asphyxiating gases would awaken the consciences of the Israeli occupiers and open their minds on the future. In doing this they would realize that recognizing the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination and independence is the only way for peace, away from the massacres and the daily killing, for which our children, women, and people are subjected to daily. We also hoped that this would make them interested in a future based on justice and peace for all.

But Shamir, who refuses to use reason, insists on using his muscles and [words indistinct]. He adheres to the need to annex the occupied territories and issues orders to armed soldiers and settlers to open fire against our people and children. His partner in power, Peres, is still talking occasionally about the Jordanian option, and occasionally about alternative leaderships. Meanwhile, Rabin wants to outbid Shamir in the use of the iron-fist policy. More dangerously, certain voices from the Likud are raised calling for forced mass expulsion of Palestinians to Jordan, and other voices call for the expulsion of all Palestinians to outside Palestine. Sharon continues to announce his plot to occupy Jordan and make it the alternative homeland after the expulsion of the Palestinians to it.

Hence, the political stands and inhumane practices, which no one can imagine, are becoming clear. These practices cannot also be imagined by the human society in the post World War II age—the age of international detente, disarmament, of solving the regional conflicts through peaceful means, and of technological revolution in the world of economy with all the challenges it poses for the society of the 21st century. These challenges must be solved through full cooperation among all nations—consumers and producers.

The people of the uprising and the stone-throwing revolution children are now facing the iron-fist policy and [word indistinct] including the usage of plastic and rubber shells. They are facing live ammunition and asphyxiating gases, including the internationally-banned gases, as well as the burning and burying of people alive, abortion of women, breaking of bones, the torture of prisoners until death in many cases, killing of children, demolition of houses, collective punishment, the brutal concentration camps, collective administrative detention, the deportation, encroachment on the Islamic and Christian holy places, and a series of violations of the [word indistinct] principles.

When the occupation authorities felt the effect of these practices on world public opinion, particularly Western public opinion, American public opinion, and Jewish public opinion, they killed the Palestinians, in accordance with Kissinger's advice, away from cameras to prevent the television media from picturing what is happening and conveying it to the world. Thus, in addition to the iron-fist policy, the occupation authorities turned Israel into another South Africa, exposing the real face of Israel not to the Palestinians only but also to the Jews and to all democratic and progressive Israelis who reject these methods, practices, and crimes.

A question arises here on the motives of this policy which contradicts the course of history. It is not of course the non-awareness of these Israeli leaders' crimes, but the fear of peace. They are wagering that deepening hatred and rancor between the Israelis and Palestinians through their intransigent and negative political stands and their aggressive practices will make the Palestinian people despair of achieving a peace based on justice. At the same time, they will push the ordinary Israeli citizens toward more introversion and bias, toward fascism and racism.

Mr Chairman, ladies, and gentlemen:

I declare here that the masses of the Palestinian people, whom I represent, adhere to the peace based on justice because our heritage, culture, Islam, Christianity, and Arabism reject rancor and aggression. As much as they open our mind for the peace based on justice, our right will become clear to defend ourselves and rights and to resist the occupation.

We respect our international commitments and the international legitimacy. At the same time, we believe that peace based on justice will be achieved through the commitment to what came in the international legitimacy and the negligence of the rest. Israel and the

United States should respect the international resolutions, including the special commitment to the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination and the establishment of their state as stipulated by the international legitimacy and the international resolutions which are the basic foundation for the convening of the international conference.

I also declare from here that some of the many disputable issues or the issues that are placed as a precondition in terms of details must be the result of the success of the international conference talks. The other issues should be placed on the agenda of the negotiations of an influential UN-sponsored international conference in which the permanent members of the Security Council and all parties to the regional conflict, including Israel and the PLO in its capacity as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people will participate. This international conference and the negotiations to be held within its framework could discuss and lay down all arrangements to guarantee the international peace among all regional countries, including the independent Palestinian state.

Israel has never defined an absolute basis for a solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. We wonder if this basis is the UN Charter, the UN and Security Council resolutions, the American declaration on human rights, the international declaration on human rights, the Vance-Gromyko 1977 declaration, the natural rights of the people, or the international legitimacy with all its meanings with regard to the establishment of the State of Israel.

As for us, many of you are wondering about our stand on Resolution 242 and 338, proceeding from our agreement on international legislation. We accept all United Nations charters and resolutions including Resolutions 242 and 338. International legislation is an indivisible whole. No one can choose what he likes in them and accept those and reject what he does not like. If the United States and Israel accept the only birth certificate of the State of Israel, which is Resolution 181, which referred to two states in Palestine, and reject, for example, Resolution 104 which dictates the Palestinian right to repatriation or compensation, how are we expected to accept 242 and forget all other international resolutions which have been issued by the Security Council; Resolutions 605, 607, and 608, as well as Resolutions 242, 446, and 465, United Nations Resolutions 3236 and 3237?

How are we expected to accept 242 especially since it concerned Israel and some Arab countries and did not deal with the Palestine question or the Palestinian people's rights, but discussed the problem of refugees and finding a solution for it? Even this one was explained by the Israeli-U.S. communique [name indistinct] in 1977 to mean the Jewish and Arab refugees. Therefore, we declare our agreement on condition that the basis for holding the international conference under the auspices of the United Nations with the participation of the permanent members of the Security Council, and all parties to the conflict in the region, including the PLO and Israel, be one of two options:

1. All in resolutions dealing with the question of Palestine, including Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

2. Resolutions 242 and 338 with the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, headed by their right to self-determination.

Let me give you another example of the vileness of the program of dividing international legitimacy, which eventually leads to abnormal results blasting the self-same international legitimacy. This example is from U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and what was termed his initiative for a peaceful settlement to the Middle East in his fourth and last visit to the region. He stopped in Cairo to say he had discovered that the struggle in Palestine is taking place between two nations on the same land and that the solution lies of them, recognizing the rights of the other. We saw a positive stand by Washington in that for the first time it recognized the Palestinian people and their rights.

However, at the end of his speech, Shultz went back to the program of dividing international legislation, when he translated Israeli rights into an independent state, government, and people. However, when he translated Palestinian right, he lost the terms Palestinian state, government, and people, and talked of an entity which would be attached to the Jordanian Kingdom, and the residents of Palestine will be dissolved into the Jordanian people. Within this framework, and for the sake of creating an atmosphere of good will toward reaching a just peace, we responded and still are, with all positiveness, to the proposal which called for the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces from the occupied Palestinian territories of 1967 and placing them under the administration of the United Nations or European forces under international supervision for a defined transitional period.

The international forces could also stay on after the establishment of the independent Palestinian state for a period defined by the Security Council to ensure the security of everyone.

Mr Chairman, ladies, and gentlemen:

We all know about the recent Jordanian measures with regard to the West Bank. The PLO Central Council accepted these measures and decided to shoulder the responsibilities resulting from them, including what is related to the political field despite their timing and method and despite the fact we were not consulted.

Despite the difficulties which we are facing, the Jordanian measures have ended the European, American, and Israeli argument on the Palestinian representation in the international conference.

Nobody can claim any longer that there is any party that can share with the PLO the representation of the Palestinian people, particularly since the Jordanian option has ended and the autonomy option has fallen. The right and realistic inevitable option that is left is the Palestinian option with its pivot, the independent Palestinian state.

The Jordanian measures have also contributed to the establishment of a new political stage which interacted with the production of the uprising and the overall Palestinian struggle in the international arena, world public opinion, the Israeli society, and the Jewish communities in America and Europe. These communities rejected this distortion made by the Israeli authorities of their Jewish beliefs that reject aggression, unjust, and coercion.

The PLO Central Council has formed a legal-political committee to study all that is related to these matters and their developments. When these studies are completed soon, they will be presented to the PNC to adopt its decisions in its capacity as the highest democratic legislative authority of the Palestinian people.

He who really believes in peace based on justice, in the people's right to self-determination, and to national independence was surprised at the very angry Israeli reactions to what might result from the Jordanian measures such as the trend toward the declaration of the national Palestinian independence and the establishment of a provisional government for the coming Palestinian state or putting the occupied Palestinian territory under UN trusteeship and auspices.

I would like to remind the Israeli leadership of what Nahum Goldmann, the former chairman of the World Jewish Congress, said with regard to the policy that Henry Kissinger planned for the region. It is useless to avoid facing what is impossible to face because it inevitably will come regardless of delaying the dealing with it. I add to this: Delaying means more victims and atmospheres designed by the aggressive policy and the organized state terrorism.

Mr Chairman, ladies, and gentlemen:

The people of Palestine do not fight for the sake of war. They are like the rest of people of the world who love peace, freedom, democracy, and national independence. The Palestinian people have practiced throughout history and hope to practice in the near future their role in achieving peace and progress for themselves and the whole world. They hope also to contribute, as they contributed in the past, to building the human civilization in the future. We have always affirmed from our position as a national liberation movement which used weapons against the occupation's repression and illegitimate terrorism our clear and comprehensive condemnation of terrorism with all its forms and sources whether it is a terrorism of individuals, groups, or states.

Our people—leaders, cadres, and citizens—have been the target of the organized Israeli terrorism through the state directly or indirectly through the armed settlers in addition to the Army openly. Despite this, we issued the Cairo declaration in 1985 against terrorism within the international law and the UN Charter and resolutions. Despite this also, Israel continued its evil without any restrictions, practicing terrorism with all its forms, including the state terrorism against the Palestinian people and their leaders inside the occupied territory and everywhere in the world.

This terrorism has reached its climax in the strafing of my headquarters in Hammam al-Shatt in Tunisia and the assassination of my deputy brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] in his house in Tunisia and in the presence of all his family members. Abu Jihad was one of the most prominent Palestinian leaders. Israel also carried out acts of piracy against civilian ships at the seas and the international waters and assassinated leaders and cadres in Cyprus, Athens, and elsewhere.

We here reiterate our commitment to the Cairo declaration issued in 1985 in the presence of President Mubarak. We also reiterate our commitment to UN Resolution No. 189/42 issued in 1987. We also affirm our right to resist the occupation until the withdrawal from our occupied territory is accomplished, the national independence of the Palestinian people in their independent state is achieved, and until our children can live peacefully and free on their free land like the rest of the children of the world.

I would like to say here that we are working to establish an independent Palestinian state on the territory liberated from the Israeli occupation with a democratic, republican, and multiparty system that abides by the legitimacy of human rights where there is no distinction among its citizens because of color, race, or religion.

Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to conclude my speech to you and tell you about the Palestinian view of Europe in terms of weight and role at present and in the future. Because of the historical ties, the geographic position, the common interests, the uninterrupted and continuous process of mutual civilizational impact, and the political and security factors connected with geographic elements, Europe has remained strongly connected with the Middle East in general and the Arab region in particular.

This has made itself manifest in all the crises, developments, and events which took place in the Middle East region in the past and in modern times. The most prominent and recent event which demonstrated this is

the Iraq-Iran war which began to end following Iran's acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 598, following the enforcement of the cease-fire, and after the beginning of negotiations between the two parties with the aim of reaching a comprehensive peace between them and in the Gulf region.

This will influence the entire Middle East region. Now, the attention has focused on the Palestine question and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, especially after Iraq has managed to hold out in the defense of its territory and the Arab nation's eastern flank, considering the new era of peace and well-being ushered in the region by this development and also considering that this will have its effect on the region's peoples and states.

Besides, there will be a new effective international role in this. Besides, Europe will have a direct relationship to all these developments and events. Europe and the Arab states have attempted throughout all the phases to hold a joint dialogue on the vital common interests—a dialogue that has become known as the Arab-European dialogue. However, all of these attempts were in vain because of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

As a matter of fact, Europe raised its voice aloud through what came to be known as the Venice Declaration which was issued on 13 June 1980—the declaration which said that it is high time to find a just solution to the Palestine question in a manner that would enable the Palestinian people, who are aware that they are a people, to exercise their right to self-determination in a comprehensive manner through a specific and suitable mechanism within the framework of a comprehensive peaceful settlement. This has always been appreciated by our people.

However, we noticed afterward Europe's hesitation between progress sometimes and retreat other times. This hesitation has prevented it from employing its weight and credibility in taking the initiative in putting into effect the mechanism which it proposed in the Venice Declaration to conclude a comprehensive peaceful settlement.

Allow us to ask here: Why this hesitation to shoulder this responsibility which would serve the interests of Europe and cherish its values? For how long will this hesitation continue at a time when the iron of the conflict has become hot and inflamed and when the march of the economic integration between Europe and the EEC on the one hand and between the Arab and perhaps the Mideast market has gotten underway with its African and Asian extensions on the other?

We are experiencing a decisive phase and the Palestinian state is the key to peace, security, and development in the Arab region which represents the security and economic depth for the Europe of tomorrow. Yes, freedom and peace are certainly coming. Will Europe then satisfy itself with the spectator's stand? Or will it advance to the arena of action and participation? The question is being raised by our people and our nation and the answer can only be provided by Europe with all of its forces, and all of its intellectual, political, and social trends which brought about its EEC and which is advancing toward the attainment of its unity, and toward the restoration of its political weight and effectiveness in the world of tomorrow which is knocking at the doors of all of us.

Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen. Peace emanates from the land of the heavenly messages, of the uprising, freedom, and independence. Our people greet all people of the world. Our civilizational makeup prompts us to wish the attainment of peace for ourselves. We wish to see friends live in peace. Besides, we do not wish to see the enemy deprived of peace. May this enemy be guided on the true course. The key to peace is the realization of our people's rights.

Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, concluding my speech, I repeat my thanks for your invitation and welcome on behalf of my people the European Parliament's stands which have rejected the Israeli iron fist policy and the economic siege imposed on the exportation of Palestinian agricultural and industrial commodities and the ensuing freezing of signing economic protocols between the EEC member states and Israel.

I and my people hope that the European Parliament's stand will return to the seriousness needed to develop the stands of the governments of the EEC member states in terms of decisions and action in a manner that would lead to the advancement of the peace process—the peace based on justice in Palestine—the land of peace, prophets, and heavenly messages

'Arafat Prepared To Meet 'Any Israeli Official'

LD1409124188 Paris Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat did not pronounce the little phrase which the majority of deputies were expecting him to in the Strasbourg Parliament yesterday—that of recognition of the State of Israel. However, we have just this moment learned that the head of the PLO stated a short while ago that he is ready to meet any Israeli official at the United Nations, whether within the Security Council or at the General Assembly. He made this statement a few minutes ago during a news conference which was attended by Jacques Fortier.

[Fortier] Yasir 'Arafat's 2d day at the Strasbourg parliament is just like the first—a charm operation by the number one of the PLO. Yasir 'Arafat presents himself as a moderate, ready to play the game of international diplomacy. As an example, speaking to the European socialist elected representatives yesterday evening, he accepted the idea of an international conference under the aegis of the United Nations. This morning he

repeated that his primary objective remains the establishment of a Palestinian state: The disengagement of Jordan from the occupied territories would be an opportunity, he said.

Yasir 'Arafat is continuing with his series of meetings today: He is due to see French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas at 1500, briefly, if one is to believe the programme as the minister has scheduled a short meeting with the press at 1530. There are no more demonstrations in the streets of Strasbourg but security continues to reign: Yasir 'Arafat has reserved rooms in four different hotels although he is only staying in one. Jacques Fortier, Radio France Alsace for France Inter.

PLO Radio Urges Further 'Even-handedness'

JN1509113088 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1750 GMT 14 Sep 88

["Reading of the Political Situation" feature: "The Man of Resistance, Dialogue, and Peace"]

[Text] When the European Parliament receives a man like Yasir 'Arafat, when friendly French and European forces label Yasir 'Arafat as the man of resistance, dialogue, and peace, and when the Zionist movement finds nothing to say except to shout at four walls of a locked room its rejection of Abu 'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat's] visit, this label, and the Palestinian resistance, dialogue, and peace, then we can consider that the even-handed, objective, realistic, and multilateral political mentality has begun to return to Europe and the West, albeit gradually.

After more than a century of Palestinian steadfastness, resistance, dialogue, and peace plans, balance has gradually begun to return to the European and Western mentality. This causes it to reconsider its calculations and political maps that it drew in accordance with its narrow interests at the expense of our people's interests and future. To push this Western mentality to further even-handedness and realism, Abu 'Ammar, the man of resistance, dialogue, and peace, goes to the heart of Europe, France, and specifically to Strasbourg, to address the flexible mentality with another flexible mentality, and to meet the European dynamism with a Palestinian dynamism based on resistance, dialogue, and peace.

Abu 'Ammar is addressing Europe in the way the Palestinians have addressed it since the beginning of the century—since the Balfour Declaration, the British mandate on Palestine, and the League of Nations and UN resolutions. Abu 'Ammar is telling Europe that the political mentality must be based on the principle of self-determination, one of the most important products of the contemporary European political mentality.

If this political mentality were to be committed to itself, to ethics, morals, and principles, then it must be committed to the resistance of occupation, injustice, and colonialistic oppression, as did France when it resisted the Nazi occupation. It should also be committed to dialogue and peace.

The form that the right to self-determination takes does not matter, whether it is Security Council Resolution No 181 of 1947 or the adoption of a resolution on the Palestinian right to self-determination in return for the Palestinian people's recognition of other peoples' rights in the region to self-determination.

Abu 'Ammar is presenting to Europe one of its principles that it should apply, implement and be committed to. He is presenting to Europe and the entire West the principle of democratic dialogue that does not contain forcefulness, tyranny, or disavowal of others' rights to present their viewpoints. Abu 'Ammar is presenting to Europe and the entire West the principle of peace and commitment to it by us and all. Will Europe and the entire West reject resistance, dialogue, and peace and appear as though they are rejecting themselves?

We see a realistic and even-handed mentality returning gradually to Europe and the entire West. We also see that our great resistance and bold uprising have returned the European and Western mentality to its senses. Our right to self-determination, independence, and freedom will definitely be achieved, our independent Palestinian state will definitely be created, and our historical victory and efforts to build the loftiest democratic structure in our land is indefinitely coming. Abu 'Ammar will lead the march until total victory. He is the man of resistance, dialogue, and peace; the man of the whole future.

PLO's Khalaf Cited on PLO Initiatives, Moves

JN0709161288 Manama WAKH in English 1550 GMT 7 Sep 88

[Text] Dubayy, Sept 7 (GNA)—A senior Palestinian official was quoted as saying today there was a consensus on taking a political move that matches the Palestinian uprising and Jordan's decision to cut links with the occupied West Bank.

But Salah Khalaf, member of the PLO's Fatah Central Committee told AL-BAYAN newspaper there was hesitation on the extent of any PLO initiative.

"We are discussing and analysing all United Nations resolutions before we embark on any move which has become necessary in this stage." he said in an interview in Tunis.

Khalaf, known by his nom de guerre as Abu Iyad, denied the PLO move would be a result of U.S. and Israeli pressure.

"That's not true. Our initiative will be in response to the Palestinian uprising and designed to maintain its momentum," he said.

He said there was no final decision on setting up a government in exile, a key issue on the agenda of the Palestinian National Council.

"There is a consensus on the need to take a political move, but there is some hesitation on the extent and direction of that move. The question is: Should we announce such a move in the next few days," he said.

Khalaf described Jordan's July 31 decision to hand responsibility of the West Bank to the PLO as brave and said it served Palestinian interests.

"It is in the interest of the Palestinian people as it pushed our cause into a new stage which I think will force Israel to change its attitude towards the Jordanian alternative." he told the Dubayy-based daily.

He confirmed the Palestinian National Council would meet in the first week of October but said they were discussing whether the meeting will be held in Tunis or Algiers.

Hani al-Hasan on Provisional Government
JN1409111588 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
11 Sep 88 p 29

[Interview with Hani al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member and political advisor to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, by the staff of AL-ANBA' office in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-ANBA'] The whole world hopes that the PLO is on the threshold of taking the first correct and sound steps toward the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. What are the practical steps to be taken in the next phase?

[Al-Hasan] We are now planning how to tackle the next phase through the PNC, which will meet during the second half of September to discuss specific courses of action. We are now seeking to exploit the Palestinian uprising politically. This uprising has achieved a great political victory in the past few months. We want to exploit the uprising in two ways: By maintaining and escalating this uprising inside the occupied territory, and attempting to embark on a big political action that leads to the international peace conference. Since the PLO is the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, we feel that the time has come to declare Palestinian national independence, which our people will announce soon in the occupied territory.

Soon also, the PNC will adopt the formation of a provisional Palestinian government, which will represent the Palestinian people in any negotiations at an international conference to achieve just and lasting peace in the Middle East. We are interested in a provisional government, not a government-in-exile. This is because there already exists in the occupied territory institutions and administrative and legal departments resulting from the unity which existed between the two banks. Therefore, calling it a provisional government is sound, especially since it would be a transitional government. As I said, the land exists and the institutions exist, so what remains is the timing of the announcement of the government, which will be established to regain the land through negotiations or otherwise, in addition to serving as an interim government. There are no justifications for calling it a government-in-exile.

[AL-ANBA'] What steps were discussed during your last meeting with President Husni Mubarak, and how close are your viewpoints to those of the Egyptian side?

[Al-Hasan] There have been close ties between the PLO and sister Egypt ever since President Husni Mubarak took power. Undoubtedly, Egypt has become the main channel of Palestinian political action on the international level in view of its weight and status both in the east and the west. Egypt is the brother and friend we resort to, because we know that it does not have any ulterior motives. Moreover, President Mubarak was behind UN Security Council Resolution 605, which spoke about Palestinian territory for the first time. This is a historical fact which nobody can deny.

President Mubarak was also the one to persuade former Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres to sign the Alexandria declaration calling for the international conference. So this was a big service for the Palestinian people. There was complete agreement between us and Egypt. Everyone was most pleased when the president instructed the experienced Egyptian institutions and departments to serve the PLO by using Egyptian experts on political and legal matters to help crystallize the plans and programs of the provisional Palestinian government.

[AL-ANBA'] Everyone on the Arab street would like to be reassured. Are there cadres within the PLO who can assume administrative and political responsibilites?

[Al-Hasan] [passage omitted] I would like to assure the Arab people that the Palestinians are united. So the voices they hear sometimes do not stem from the real Palestinian institutions. There were those who once attacked the Sabra and Shatila camps. But Palestinian efforts are much better today. We, the major forces, have now agreed to go to the PNC and declare the Palestinian state, embodied in a provisional government. There may be differences of opinion inside the council, but this will not be considered a division. Some people call for the government to be announced on the basis of one principle, and others on another. The Arab people must not consider this dialogue a disagreement and try to exploit it.

Every member of the PLO has the right to take part in the discussion until the matter is put to a vote. We are capable of assuming our responsibilities and tasks. We, O Arab nation, are not divulging much so the enemy will not foil our plans. But everyone should rest assured that Yasir 'Arafat and the Palestinian leadership, with all its members, forces, and cadres, is fully prepared for the day that we have long awaited, when the unusual becomes normal and the impossible possible for the sake of establishing our independent Palestinian state.

However, we will not tackle these matters conventionally in public statements. We have learned that the plan is first written in the bosom, then it is written gradually and quietly on the ground and translated into reality. [passage omitted]

[AL-ANBA'] What is the international reaction to the decision to declare the Palestinian state?

[Al-Hasan] From my simple reading of international reactions, I can say that the matter is being discussed more in diplomatic circles than in the media, because it has come as a surprise to the world. But this move is not a surprise to us Palestinians. The incidents on the West Bank and Gaza and the Jordanian decision [to sever ties with the West Bank] have urged the need to announce the Palestinian state. The uprising carried out by our kinfolk in the occupied territories has proved this beyond all expectations. Almost every Palestinian home now is involved in the uprising.

For several months now, we have been preparing for the government and carrying out studies. However, King Husayn's decision has expedited these studies. We are now at a major crossroad. For this government to enter the United Nations, it must be approved by the Security Council. So how can we avoid the U.S. veto in solidarity with Israel against the declaration of the Palestinian government? Undoubtedly, this question can only be tackled by our political program, which should be acceptable internationally.

Therefore, we are giving Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq a bigger responsibility in backing the coming Palestinian steps. We expect them to back the Palestinian political stand by exerting pressure on the United States and persuading it not to obstruct in any way the Palestinian government. Praise be to God, Iraq has rejoined the Arab forces and will play an important role concerning the Palestine question in the future.

President Husni Mubarak has also expressed his readiness to undertake any task for the sake of Palestine and the Palestinian people. Saudi Arabia, with its wise decisions and big political clout with the United States, can make a contribution. We are still in the initial steps of struggle. The announcement of the provisional Palestinian government does not mean that we will pluck the fruits in 1 or 2 weeks. But we will not wait long. When we began the revolution, we spoke of a struggle that will continue for 40 years. Today, we have begun to talk about an important phase whose fruits we will pluck in the early nineties, God willing.

Dissident Groups Denounce 'Arafat Policies

JN0509200588 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 5 Sep 88

[Text] Talal Naji, PLO Executive Committee member and PFLP-GC assistant secretary general, has denounced 'Arafat's many statements, moves, and his capitulatory and treasonous policy which are part of the preparations for the anouncement of readiness to recognize the Zionist entity and hold direct negotiations with it in accordance with the enemy's conditions of canceling the PLO through the cancellation of its National Charter and political program.

This came in the speech Talal Naji delivered at the ceremony the PFLP-GC held today on the occasion of the graduation of the uprising martyrs class of fedayeen—the fedayeen of the Qbibya martyrs operation belonging to the Progressive Youth Organization. Naji stressed that the enemity this rightwing faction and its emblems have for the Arab forces of confrontation and for the revolutionary Arab forces of liberation, and their closing of the Damascus gate that has been opened for them to entrench and support the uprising and the Palestinian national struggle constitute an overt conspiracy whose intentions, aims, and dimensions are exposed and which no one ignores any longer.

Talal Naji said that 'Arafat's joining the Camp David regime, his continued coordination with it, and his adoption of this regime as the pivot and basis of the current political moves and postulates confirm that the 'Arafatist trend has started to overtly emerge as a party to the second stage of Camp David.

Naji called on all the nationalist forces in the Palestinian arena to reassess their stands, unite their efforts, develop their militant tools, and entrench their alliance with the forces of the Arab liberation movement, particularly in the main struggle arena, and specifically with Syria and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. He also called on them to work for exposing and isolating 'Arafat and his divisionist policy, as well as all those who participate with him or remain silent on his policy.

Abu Khalid al-'Amlah then delivered a speech on behalf of the Palestinian revolution and the PNSF. He said the road of confrontation against the enemy is the road of national unity and not that of capitulation to the enemy's plans. He added that national unity can never be established on the basis of the liquidatory program which seeks to cancel the people's role and squander their identity. He said that there can be no unity with the trend of capitulation and there can be no agreement with the capitulationists.

Al-'Amlah added that the uprising is now subjected to feverish attempts to liquidate it by more than one party and on more than one level. The most dangerous of these attempts is that which the renegade and traitor faction, represented by 'Arafat and the capitulationists who are with him, are carrying out in our Palestinian arena. They seek to politically exploit the uprising and overtly call for the recognition of the Zionist enemy through their liquidatory plans and their alliances with the reactionary regimes, foremost being the traitor Camp David regime in Egypt and the fascist regime of Saddam Husayn in Iraq.

Al-'Amlah said that the time has come to call for a Palestinian popular conference which will bring about a nationalist leadership that will announce its rejection of the program of 'Arafat and his clique, which will reaffirm that 'Arafat does not represent the Palestinian people, and which will state that the Palestinian nationalist forces alone are those which represent the aspirations of our people and that they alone are the ones which lead the PLO toward the attainment of our objectives of liberation and repatriation.

Concluding his speech, Al-'Amlah greeted Syria under comrade struggler President Hafiz al-Asad. He also greeted our people who are waging a heroic uprising in the occupied homeland, on the Golan Heights, and in southern Lebanon.

The ceremony was attended by comrade Muhammad Khalifah, Ba'th Party National Command member and PLO Executive Committee member; and Comrade Sami Qandil, member of the regional command of the Ba'th Party's Palestinian grouping and secretary general of Al-Sa'iqah Forces Organization in Lebanon.

Algeria

Official Holds Talks With Visiting Soviet Envoy

LD1409101788 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Mr Mohamed Aberkane, deputy foreign minister for cooperation, today received the deputy minister of the Middle East and North Africa Department of the USSR Foreign Ministry.

The meeting allowed the two parties to carry out a wide-ranging review of international issues of common interest and to examine bilateral relations.

Egypt

Omani State Minister Comments on Gulf Issues

NC1409153288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1347 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 14 Sep (MENA)—Yusuf ibn al-'Alawi, Omani state minister for foreign affairs, has said that during their meeting today he and President Husni Mubarak exchanged views on the recent developments in the Gulf. The meeting, Al-'Alawi noted, was in the context of continuous consultations between Sultan Qabus of Oman and President Mubarak.

He added that he and President Mubarak discussed current events in the Arab arena and ways to tackle issues of consequence to the Arab world and its future.

Asked about the 1975 agreement between Iraq and Iran and the Shatt al-'Arab problem, Al-'Alawi stated that the problem of the 1975 agreement mainly concerns Iraq and Iran. What concerns us, he said, is that the current UN-sponsored talks in Geneva arrive at a formula which will lead to peace and stability and to the reconstruction of Iraqi-Iranian relations on the basis of mutual respect and goodneighborliness.

Asked if his recent visit to Iran had involved any mediation designed to advance the talks between Iraq and Iran, Al-'Alawi said: During the war, as after the cease-fire, Oman has always sought ways of helping to lay firm foundations for peace and cooperation in the region.

Concerning the Egyptian prisoners of war in Iran, Al-'Alawi voiced the belief that this problem is on its way to being solved.

Asked about his country's views on reports of the use of chemical weapons in Iraq, Al-'Alawi said: I think that this matter should be confined to its general context. I rather imagine that this issue has been inflated a bit.

Leaves Cairo 14 Sep

NC1409154888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1354 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 14 Sep (MENA)—Yusuf ibn al-'Alawi, Oman's minister of state for foreign affairs, left Cairo this afternoon, following a 1-day visit to Egypt during which he was received by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

During the visit, the Omani official held talks with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on issues of common concern and developments in the region.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid accompanied the Omani state minister to the airport.

Nigeria's Babangida Sends Message to Mubarak

NC1409150088 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received a Nigerian delegation led by Kasuri, head of the African Department of the Nigerian Foreign Ministry, at the presidential offices this afternoon. The meeting was attended by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Nigerian Ambassador to Cairo.

Following the meeting, Kasuri said that he had handed President Husni Mubarak a written message from nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida. He added that the meeting with President Mubarak was fruitful and that they discussed bilateral issues.

Kasuri said that consultations are under way to arrange a date for Babangida's visit to Egypt.

'Arafat's Visit to European Parliament Viewed

NC1409142588 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Ibrahim Wahbi commentary: "The Significance of 'Arafat's Visit to the European Parliament"]

[Text] The presence of Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, at the European Parliament has sparked off a heated debate between the opponents and supporters of such an event.

The socialist group, the largest in the parliament, insisted on letting 'Arafat visit the parliament, while the Jewish community protested the visit, viewing it as an insult. However, the president of the European Parliament warned that the uproar surrounding 'Arafat's visit would only draw more attention to the Palestinian issue.

The French foreign minister, for his part, welcomed the PLO leader. He issued a statement saying that he would meet 'Arafat, despite the protests of the Jewish community, because such a meeting could only further peace in the Middle East.

'Arafat delivered an important political speech in Strasbourg despite objections by Israel's supporters, who maintained that only heads of state and government are traditionally allowed to make speeches before the European Parliament.

'Arafat's speech removed any doubts that may have lingered in Europe as to whether the state which 'Arafat will establish intends to adhere to UN resolutions, including the clauses dealing with Israel's existence, and particularly UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. 'Arafat made it clear that the Palestinian people are dedicated to peace based on justice, but they also expect their rights to self-determination to be recognized.

Jewish protests and terrorist-bashing rhetoric have not been able to eliminate the great political impact of 'Arafat's visit to Europe and his Strasbourg speech or to counteract the publicity the visit attracted.

The Jewish League, which urged its members to demonstrate against the visit, is driven by a desire to conceal the facts from the European public. This in itself is proof of the status and vitality of the Palestinian issue.

The president of the European Parliament rejected the arguments of the protesters by saying that he was acting upon the request of the leader of the socialist group in the parliament.

He added that he wanted to inform 'Arafat of the European Parliament's support for a peaceful settlement of the Middle East conflict and to hear any views which 'Arafat might wish to convey to the European Parliament or to the socialist group within this body.

'Arafat has repeatedly said that he is prepared to make peace in exchange for land. 'Arafat also wanted to tell Europe that those who lash out against terrorism and terrorists should define their position toward what is currently taking place in the territories occupied by Israel.

The European Parliament, including both supporters and opponents of 'Arafat's visit, should thoroughly look into the question of who has been blocking the chances of settling the Palestinian problem and who is still doing so and on continuing to do so, at a time when violence is subsiding throughout the world—in the Gulf, the Western Sahara, Angola, South Africa, and Afghanistan.

There is a significance to 'Arafat's presence at the European Parliament. it is an implicit recognition of the PLO's status as the sole representative of the Palestinian people, and a rejection of Israel's allegation that the PLO is a terrorist organization.

This rejection was underlined by the fact that France accorded 'Arafat a reception generally reserved for heads of state and prominent international figures.

Paper Comments on 'Arafat's Remarks

NC1409213288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2041 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 14 Sep (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR asserts that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's statements in Strasbourg have blocked the way to the excuse which Israel has been using in its stubborn resistance to the return of the occupied Palestinian territories to their owners and to the establishment of an independent state and national homeland for the Palestinian people.

In its Thursday editorial, the paper says that 'Arafat sincerely and clearly declared his readiness to recognize Israel's existence and to accept all the UN Security Council resolutions on the Palestinian issue passed since 1948 if the Palestinian people are given their legitimate right to self-determination. He noted that the people of the heroic uprising in the occupied land are eager for peace based on justice.

The paper says that Israeli leaders of all shades of opinion have continued to insist on the need to recognize Israel and its right to exist as a basic precondition for holding any talks with the Palestinians, in the belief that the PLO will not agree to do so.

'Arafat's statements in Strasbourg have torpedoed this excuse and removed any obstacle which Israel has been trying to place in the way of attempts to regain the occupied Palestinian territories.

In conclusion, AL-AKHBAR asks what new excuse Israel will make to the international community to overcome this predicament. What new excuse will it find to place new obstacles in the way of the expected announcement about the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and about the holding of peace talks through an international conference to achieve a concrete solution to the Middle East problems, including the Palestinian issue?

Libya

SFRY's Milosavljevic Arrives 14 Sep

LD1409215688 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1030 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Tripoli, 14 Sep (JANA)—The vice president of the Federal Council in the Republic of Yugoslavia, Milos Milosavljevic, and the delegation accompanying him arrived this morning in Tripoli on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

In a statement to JANA following his arrival, the Yugoslav Federal Council vice president said that relations between the Jamahiriyah and Yugoslavia are very good, and there is a need to intensify and develop the relations, ties of friendship, and economic cooperation between the two friendly countries.

He indicated that the two countries should seek every means to increase the level of these relations, develop this cooperation, and consolidate the ties of friendship between the two countries.

He extended his hopes to the Libyan-Arab people for prosperity and progress on the path of revolution.

Former Diplomat on Al-Qadhdhafi Activities
AB1409090788 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] A former Libyan citizen who, until April 1988 was an official of his country's diplomatic mission to the United Nations, has spoken out about Libya's terrorist designs.

He has revealed the notorious activities of Al-Qadhdhafi's terrorist machinery throughout the world. With these revelations, which we can describe without mincing words as explosive, (Salif 'Alki Essi) has thus naturally joined the ranks of the Libyan opposition.

For a long time, the press did not know his whereabouts, but today he has surfaced again with the publication of the following document, which we want to inform you about.

Terrorism, he stated, is Al-Qadhdhafi's favorite political weapon. He always has recourse to this weapon to convince Libyans and to deal with his neighbors (?throughout) Africa.

Therefore, Al-Qadhdhafi knows nothing about diplomacy, and therefore, he has no diplomats in his embassies abroad. A[illegible] what he calls People's Bureaus, he posts people who actually are men of the revolutionary committees, as well as secret agents.

It is therefore normal that (?he refuses to call these bureaus) embassies. But the world has not understood that a people's bureau is a nest of terrorism. The targets of this state terrorism are the exiled Libyan opponents and the neighboring countries.

The last congress of the Libyan People's Committees reiterated Libya's commitment to physically eliminate all opponents. As for activities against the leaders of the neighboring countries, (Salif 'Alki Essi) cites several cases.

For example, in 1984, Al-Qadhdhafi did not hesitate to install missiles in [words indistinct] in the Indian Ocean, with the aim of downing the plane carrying Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, who was traveling to Tanzania.

But in the area of Al-Qadhdhafi's terrorist activities, what we are interested in are (Salif's) revelations about Chad. Chad, he said, has been and continues to be the major target of Al-Qadhdhafi's terrorist activities, in particular in the present circumstances.

Because, he added, Al-Qadhdhafi dreams of building an African empire, and Chad is the stepping stone for his dream. It is only the courage and commitment of the Chadian people, under the leadership of President Hissein Habre, that have shattered his dream.

This is why, the former Libyan diplomat said, Al-Qadhdhafi is seeking all means to eliminate President El Hadj Hissein Habre. Among the several terrorist attempts against the Chadian head of state, (Salif 'Alki) (?revealed) a plan to gun down the president of the Republic when he stepped off his plane in Bujumbura, where he attended the Conference of Heads of State of France and Africa.

The Libyan ambassador in the Burundian capital, as well as Major ('Abqan 'Abdallah al-Sanusi) and a member of the Libyan secret service named ('Abd-al-Salam Azamsa) were charged with the implementation of this operation. But following the failure of this plan, the Libyan secret service continued to monitor President Hissein Habre's visits abroad.

(Salif 'Alki Essi) also confirmed that it was the same [words indistinct] who, in Bangui, planted the bomb that exploded in the UTA [French National Airline] plane when it made a stopover in Ndjamena in March 1984. The objective of such terrorist activities is to destablilize Chad and to jeopardize the unity which its people have regained.

The former Libyan diplomat also reveals that Al-Qadhdhafi can never be happy while a neighboring country lives in tranquility. Even with his aides, he is always quarreling.

Sudan

Soviet Envoy Interviewed on Aid, Regional Issues
JN1309205688 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 9 Sep 88 p 22

[By Salam Musafir]

[Text] Soviet Ambassador in Khartoum Valeriy Ya Sukhin has said that his country will continue to provide Sudan with the immediate aid which is necessary as a result of the floods' disaster that hit the country.

In an interview with the newspaper AL-ANBA', Sukhin said that Soviet aid sent to Sudan is different in that it does not only include what the Soviet Red Cross and Crescent usually send in such cases, but also includes varied and in kind assistance offered by the Soviet social organizations, such as the youth unions, workers union, the unions of friendship between nations, and others.

Sukhin added that bilateral agreements had been reached on starting maintenance work and rebuilding on projects which were originally built by Soviet aid to Sudan during the sixties.

Some of these are: canning factories, grain silos and a hospital. Our experts who recently visited Sudan defined the work plans for the future which include expanding and modernizing these projects.

The ambassador added that an agreement had been signed to increase all aspects of educational exchange between the two countries, including increasing the number of scholarships for Sudanese students in the Soviet Union.

Sukhin said, that from the political point of view, the stands of the two countries on international issues were either identical or very similar.

Large-scale and continuous discussions are taking place over the Middle East issue, in which Sudan supports the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and supports holding an international peace conference in the Middle East. This reflects the identical viewpoints on this issue.

In answer to a question by AL-ANBA' on current Soviet-Somali relations, Ambassador Sukhin said:

Our relations with Somalia are normal now and they are improving. We are relaxed about Somalia's role in finding a settlement to the problems existing in the Horn of Africa, especially after signing an agreement between Somalia and Ethiopia.

We hope the countries in the other regions will reach peaceful solutions to the problems between them through international detente and deviation from confrontation.

On whether there is any change in the Soviet position on the Eritrean people's cause, he said the Soviet Union looks at the Eritrean problem solely from its point of view and interest in decreasing tension and solving regional disputes peacefully.

He added that the Eritrean problem is not new. It has gone through various stages. During the reign of Haile Selassie in Ethiopia, the Soviet Union viewed it from a certain angle.

After the toppling of the empire and the establishment of the new regime in Ethiopia, our viewpoint changed of course. We believe that the problems with a nationalist or racial root should be solved politically. This is the law in the current age. We also believe that the solution lies within the framework of one independent Ethiopian state.

He added: Therefore, it is incomprehensible to us that some Eritrean organizations in their slogans call for separation and division. We believe that the Eritreans could live with total rights within the framework of the Ethiopian state with the other ethnic groups in the country. As for how that will happen, that is an issue which concerns the parties themselves.

Sukhin said: I can afirm, with reference to the existing situation in the African Continent, that the establishment of a new independent state is not a realistic issue, especially since the OAU charter rejects forming any changes in the African map.

In our opinion, this is a good basis for constructive cooperation between the states of the continent. There is no option to the solution of the Eritrean problem other than the peaceful option. Even if we assume that one party effects military gains at some point and if a split does occur, the reality which will come about will create great problems with the neighboring countries and the continent in general.

As far as I know, there is not one African country which allows changes to take place on the map of the Horn of Africa.

On a question concerning the situation of the three Soviet prisoners held by the revolutionaries of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Eritrea and the hopes of their release, the Soviet ambassador said:

The relations between the Soviet Union and Ethiopia are relations of friendship and cooperation. It is known that our country gives various types of aid to Ethiopia: political, economic, and in the field of intensifying the defense capabilities of this country. Therefoe, our experts there are working with the aim of installing and repairing Soviet military equipment.

He added: The Soviet experts, however, do not participate in any direct military action whatsoever. This is one point. Another point is that I am convinced that the real revolutionaries could not have taken the step of capturing Soviet experts who did not take part in any military operation and use that as a means to pressure the Soviet Union.

If what I am saying is right about the Eritrean revolutionaries, then logic dictates that they release the Soviet prisoners as soon as possible, which would lead the Soviet Union to reevaluate its stands in a way which would coincide with Eritrean interests. The Soviet Union holds no grudge or prejudice against the Eritreans.

Our country is a great country which is known to receive a great deal of international respect. It also offers and has offered large amounts of aid to Asian and African

countries and will continue this aid. Therefore, exploiting such issues is totally unacceptable to us. Whoever attempts to do that is putting himself in a situation that does not help his fateful causes.

At the conclusion of his interview with AL-ANBA', Sukhin denied that Moscow had provided or still was providing any support to the Garang movement in southern Sudan.

He said: This is an internal Sudanese problem for which we see that the only solution is a peaceful one.

Tunisia

Islamic Tendency Leaders Allowed Home

PM1409155888 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Sep 88 p 1

[Unattributed "exclusive" report: "Islamic Tendency Prepares To Announce Its Own Party"]

[Text] Tunis, London—In a comprehensive step toward completing national reconciliation in Tunisia, Eng Hamadi Jebali, deputy secretary general of the Islamic Tendency Movement—who was sentenced to death in absentia by the now-dissolved state court—yesterday returned to Tunisia after an official understanding was reached in this regard with the government of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

At a meeting held with his aides before 'Id al-Adha, President Ben Ali decided to facilitate the return of three Islamic Tendency Movement officials who were sentenced in absentia. Contacted by telephone, [Tunisian] Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche informed AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT of their names. They are: Cheikh Abdelfattah Mourou, Hamadi Jebali, and Mohamed Hachemi Hamdi.

Moreover, Cheikh Abdelfattah Mourou, the movement's secretary general, will return to Tunisia on Friday after a 2-year forced exile in the Saudi Arabian Kingdom.

In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT prior to his departure from Jeddah for Geneva en route to Tunis, Cheikh Mourou said that he has decided to return to his homeland since the new era has proven its readiness to accept different opinions and its seriousness in firmly establishing the course of openness and democracy as well as Arab and Islamic nobility.

Meanwhile, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that there is a strong inclination to recognize the Islamic Tendency Movement officially before the 1st anniversary of the 7 November change.

In this context, the movement's leader Cheikh Rached Ghannouchi has formed a technical, legal committee to prepare a new application for a legal license and approval for a new name, which could be the "National Reform Party" [Hizb al-Islah al-Watani].

In a statement to LE MONDE last Monday President Ben Ali said he believed there was nothing to prevent recognition of the Islamic Tendency if it would abide by the party law.

AFP on President's Visit To France

AU1509135988 Paris AFP in English 1329 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] Paris, Sept 15 (AFP)—Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali left Paris for home Thursday after a three-day visit that highlighted French delight with his democratic reforms.

He was accompanied to the airport by Prime Minister Michel Rocard.

It was Mr. Ben Ali's first trip to a Western country since he became president after succeeding Habib Bourguiba on November 7.

During the visit, he received an unexpected accolade from French President Francois Mitterrand, who departed from schedule and normal protocol to attend a hotel reception that Mr. Ben Ali hosted for prominent members of the Tunisian community in France, numbering some 230,000.

During his stay, Mr. Ben Ali pledged to pursue "a process of democratization and liberalization" that has so far included legalizing of two banned political parties and overtures toward a third, as well as constitutional reforms.

Mr. Mitterrand praised Mr. Ben Ali for having "ensured change in continuity", a reference to Mr. Ben Ali's forcible retirement of Mr. Bourguiba on the grounds of senility.

The president of the French Senate, Alain Poher, told the Tunisian leader that "you turned a delicate page in Tunisian history. The French appreciated your tact, for they had much esteem for your predecessor," he said.

Jacques Chirac, the former prime minister and current mayor of Paris, called Mr. Ben Ali "a statesman who symbolises the new Tunisia."

The Tunisian president is a former head of national security and rose to become interior minister.

There are few outstanding issues between France and its small, north African former colony of seven million people, and no major development had been expected to come from the visit.

However, Mr. Ben Ali, during a nostalgic visit to the Saint-Cyr military academy in western France which he once attended, was able to discuss at length his government's military requirements with Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement.

Kuwait

U.S. Envoy Called Over Accusations Against Iraq

LD1409110088 Kuwait KUNA in English 1002 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Kuwait, Sept 14 (KUNA)—The Foreign Ministry Wednesday summoned the U.S. ambassador to Kuwait Wilson Nathaniel Howell for a meeting with Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin.

A responsible source in the ministry told KUNA that Al-Shahin expressed to the envoy Kuwait's deep concern over Washington's accusations against Iraq in the chemical weapons issue. He further reflected on Kuwait's regret over the way the American media exploited those charges to launch a campaign against Iraq at a time when neutral parties, the latest of which was the Red Cross, said such accusations were not proven.

The undersecretary affirmed that it is keen on a concerted endeavor to push forward the Geneva peace talks between Iraq and Iran through providing suitable atmosphere for the U.N. secretary general's efforts.

However, he stressed Kuwait's strong belief that raising such questions, such as the U.S. Senate decision, at this particular time complicates progress of negotiations and consequently leads to narrowing available opportunities for concluding comprehensive peace between the two parties.

Paper on U.S. Concepts of Justice, Human Rights

JN1109202588 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 10 Sep 88 p 1

[Editorial: "When the Sense of Justice Dies"]

[Text] We definitely stand for human rights and against the use of chemical weapons anytime and anywhere in the world. On this basis, our concept of justice is integral and our stand against injustice and the violation of human freedom and dignity is firm and unchangeable

We are surprised that the United States speaks about the alleged use of chemical weapons in some geographical areas when Israel uses every inhuman method against the Palestinians in their cities and villages, houses and schools, and prisons and detention camps. Israel's map is almost full of prisons and there are almost nonstop Western reports on the deteriorating situation and bad health conditions that the Palestinian people are suffering.

These reports cover wide areas of European and U.S. newspapers and magazines. We are surprised that such reports about human rights violations do not reach the ears of senior U.S. officials, while cries and furor are made and plans to boycott and impose sanctions against Iraq are prepared—due to mere accusations by its opponents that it used chemical weapons in the north—although Iraq already denied these accusations.

Once again, we support human rights and oppose all chemical weapons. We also regret that U.S. senior officials' sense of justice dies when the affair hinges on Israel. Israel has perpetrated brutal acts. It perpetrated massacres against inmates in their prisons and innocent Palestinians in their houses. Despite this, no single U.S. statement of condemnation or denouncement has been issued. Where is justice and where are human rights?

In Israel's prisons and detention camps are thousands of Palestinians who live under appalling conditions. They are ordered to leave their tents, sit on the ground, and sleep on their backs in very hot weather. This picture was shown to U.S. correspondents who visited Israeli prisons and saw directly how the Palestinian prisoners live and the brutal acts and inhuman violations perpetrated by the Israeli soldiers against them. U.S. support for Israel does not serve justice.

It hurts the United States itself as the first advocate of human rights. Whatever anti-Arab statements U.S. presidential candidates make, these statements support Israel so much that they absolutely yield to Zionist influence. The United States—a country with interests—still believes it can divide rights, part justice, and classify people as it pleases. This, alone, is a great tragedy.

Algerian Envoy Assesses Visit, Leaves for UAE

LD1109164688 Kuwait KUNA in English 1335 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Kuwait, Sept 11 (KUNA)—Algerian presidential envoy and minister of culture and tourism Boualem Bessaieh left here Sunday for the United Arab Emirates after delivering a message to h.h. the amir from President Chadli Bendjedid.

He was seen off at the airport by Assistant Undersecretary of Information Muhammad Musad al-Rumi and the Algerian ambassador-designate to Kuwait Mohamed Qadri. In a departure statement, Bessaieh told KUNA that the Algerian presidential message to the amir of Kuwait dealt with a number of issues of mutual interest and latest developments in the Arab area.

The Algerian envoy added that during his stay here, he had an exchange with Kuwaiti officials and pointed out that he found from h.h. the amir 'every understanding and an attentive ear' for what Algeria has to say.

Regarding the possible outcome of his current tour, Bessaieh said, 'I can say that it will be useful and a cause for optimism', adding he would be handing over a similar message to UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al-Nuhayyan. While in Kuwait, Bessaieh conferred with Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad.

Qatar

Government Denounces 'Allegations' Against Iraq

JN1409115988 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1114 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Doha, 14 Sep (WAKH)—An official source at the Qatari Foreign Ministry said that the Qatari Government expresses surprise and denunciation for the political and media campaigns against Iraq, under the allegation that its troops used chemical weapons against the Kurds.

He said the Qatari Government considers these campaigns an attempt to interfere in Iraq's domestic affairs and create confusion to further obstruct the Iraq-Iran peace talks.

In a statement to QNA, the source pointed to Iraq's repeated denial of the allegations and accusations against it. He said that Qatar, which supported the cease-fire agreement between the two Muslim neighbors, calls on the international community to exert more good efforts to help the two negotiating sides overcome the difficulties facing these talks, and to push forward their negotiations so that a peaceful, just, and honorable settlement of the conflict between them can be achieved and so peace and stability in the Gulf region and in the Middle East can prevail.

Saudi Arabia

U.S. 'Cautious Approach' on Middle East Viewed

LD1009212588 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 Sep 88

["News and Comment" by Husayn al-Askari]

[Text] Observers are talking about the U.S. Administration's cautious approach to understanding the just demands of the Palestinian people amid Israel's escalation of oppressive measures against Arab citizens in the occupied territories.

The U.S. Administration's cautious approach to understanding the Palestinian issue seems to have taken a new turn recently. This could be seen through some indications which could not be ignored or underestimated by observers. These indications include the recent speech by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy to a Jewish organization.

In his speech, he pointed out that violence and oppression will not achieve security for Israel. This was a clear reference to the oppressive practices by the Zionist enemy to confront the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied territories, an uprising which entered its 10th month with more power, strength, and commitment to force the enemy to recognize the rights of the Palestinian people.

The U.S. official said that expelling Palestinian citizens in revenge is regrettable and cannot be accepted because it generates hatred toward Israel, not only internally, but also externally in the international arena, which has now become more convinced of the justness of the Palestinian people's demands.

Recent retreats of the U.S. Administration—not appealing the U.S. courts ruling which recognized the legitimacy of the PLO office at the United Nations and a resolution passed by Congress—are indicators that the U.S. stance takes into consideration new events in the Arab-Israeli conflict and intends to deal seriously and justly with these new events. This new stance is still within the sphere of extreme caution and its credibility depends on the U.S. Administration following through on its words.

One of the most important of these is looking with a spirit of truth and justice at the Arab-Israeli conflict and dealing with the essence of this conflict—the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, and most importantly the right to self-determination and establishment of an independent state on their national soil under the leadership of their legitimate representative, the PLO, which is still unrecognized by the U.S. Administration. This is the main obstacle, which cannot be overcome without the PLO. It seems that this is what the U.S. Administration is trying to approach with extreme caution.

Yemen Arab Republic

Government on 'Unjust Campaign' Against Iraq

JN1409204688 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry has stated the following:

The YAR noted that there is a propaganda campaign by some international circles against fraternal Iraq. The campaign is to harm Iraq and slander it to serve the narrow interests of these circles. This comes when Iraq entered direct negotiations with Iran in order to achieve lasting peace between them and solve the conflict that lasted 8 years so that the region may avoid tension and foreign intervention.

The YAR strongly denounces this unjust campaign. It wishes to reemphasize solidarity with Iraq to restore just and lasting peace in the region. It also emphasizes that the tendentious media campaign to which Iraq is being subjected is to create an atmosphere of confusion and anxiety in the region, which may negatively affect peace efforts to solve its problems.

It also finds this campaign harmful to all Arab countries. In addition to being contradictory to the reality of events in the region, the campaign interferes in Iraq's internal affairs.

Delegation Agrees to October Meeting in New York

JN1409155888 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1507 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Statement issued by the delegation to the Geneva talks dated 14 September]

[Text] During the meetings which were held on Saturday, 11 September, and yesterday, the secretary general, through his personal representative, called on the two ministers to meet with him and his personal representative in New York.

The Iraqi delegation clearly explained that that it cannot accept New York as a venue for longstanding and detailed negotiations. This is due to security and political considerations resulting from the current malicious campaign against Iraq and other practical reasons.

The Iraqi delegation also explained that it is necessary before the two delegations' depart for Geneva, to fix a specific date for the resumption of negotiations in Geneva and that this date is binding on the two sides.

The Iraqi delegation affirmed that the side which leaves the date unfixed has to bear the responsibility of the consequences of such an act. However, stemming from respect for the secretary general, and as an assertion of the longstanding cooperation between Iraq and the United Nations and its secretary general, Iraq has agreed to hold a meeting in New York during the first week of October, provided it will be followed soon by the resumption of direct negotiations in Geneva according to the agreement reached by the two governments with the secretary general on 8 August.

That agreement stipulated the holding of direct negotiations as soon as cease-fire goes into effect in order to reach a joint understanding on the other provisions of Resolution 598 as well as the measures and dates concerning the implementation of these provisions.

It is regrettable that a specific time for the resumption of negotiations in Geneva was not announced by the secretary general's personal representative before his departure for New York. The Iraqi delegation hopes that this date will be fixed very soon.

The Iraqi delegation wishes to assert the Iraqi stand to which it firmly adhered throughout 8 years of Iranian aggression. This stand stipulates work for a durable, comprehensive, and honorable peace according to the letter and spirit of UN Security Council Resolution No 598.

Staff General on U.S. 'Pressuring' at Talks

JN1409083288 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister, has described the Al-Faw liberation battle as the key to the end of the Iranian aggression against Iraq.

In a statement at the final session of the Iraqi-Arab scientific military symposium to immortalize the Al-Faw liberation battle, Khayrallah said that this battle surpassed subsequent battles because it was considered impossible under the circumstances.

The defense minister then reviewed relations between Iraq and Iran from the Ottoman occupation until the establishment of a national government in Iraq. He said that during this period, 18 border agreements and treaties were signed by the two countries and Iran violated them all.

Referring to the media uproar fabricated by the United States and its supporters, Khayrallah said it aims at imposing a news blackout on the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories and pressuring Iraq during the Geneva negotiations to abandon its legitimate rights.

Khayrallah also wondered how the United States could talk about human rights after it violated these rights when it used the atomic bomb and various biological and chemical weapons against the people in Japan and Vietnam.

He added that the effects of these weapons are still felt in these countries. He said Iraq is the only country where Kurdish citizens enjoy autonomy—adding that Kurds do not enjoy such autonomy in neighboring countries.

Khayrallah said Iran did not accept peace out of belief, but as a result of the Iraqi fighters'ability and the defeats they inflicted on Iran, and that Iran wants a cease-fire, and not a comprehensive peace agreement that can achieve permanent security and stability for the two sides.

He pointed out that the enemies of the Arab nation are trying to impose a news blackout on the great Iraqi victory, which is a victory for all the Arabs, and on the meaning of the victory, which epitomizes the Arab fighter's bravery and intelligence.

He called for spiritual communication among the sons of the Arab nation as it is needed on the military, political, cultural, or economic levels [passage omitted]

Undersecretary on Geneva Talks, Other Issues

JN1509115588 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0950 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] Doha, 15 Sep (WAKH)—Nizar Hamdun, undersecretary of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, has asserted that the stumbling of the Iraqi-Iranian negotiations in Geneva is natural and inevitable because each party is trying to convince the other of its own viewpoint.

He said his country is negotiating with Iran on the basis of a comprehensive, lasting peace and the war, waged over the past 8 years, should not recur in the future.

In a statement published by the Qatari newspaper AL-SHARQ today,the Iraqi official explained that the Iraqi way of negotiating is based on several known world principles on the resolution of regional conflicts. These principles are based on international norms and laws and also on UN Security Council Resolution No 598.

Regarding Iraq's stand on the Shatt al-'Arab, Nizar Hamdun said this issue awaits discussion in the negotiations. Iran must pledge, under UN guarantee, to clear the Shatt al-'Arab as part of the measures to entrench the cease-fire decision between the two countries. He pointed out that the Arab POW's held by Iran are not different from the Iraqi POW's and they will be treated the same as the Iraqi inmates.

In his statement to AL-SHARQ, the Iraqi Foreign Ministry undersecretary asserted that the presence of Kurds in Iraq is an internal affair and cannot be subjected to any foreign considerations. All that Iraq seeks to realize with Iran is securing Iran's noninterference in Iraq's internal affairs whether in northern or southern Iraq.

Regarding future Iraqi diplomacy on the Gulf and Arab levels, Hamdun said this diplomacy still aims to consolidate the bases of cooperation and peace with the Gulf states in particular and the Arab states in general. In this regard, he pointed to Iraq's support for the GCC Council to enhance cooperation in various fields.

Hamdun explained that cooperation among the Arab states must involve the economic, social, and cultural fields and should not be confined to the political field. He said current moves to bring closer the Iraqi and Syrian viewpoints have yielded nothing new and Iraqi-Libyan relations have improved recently.

Tariq 'Aziz Returns From Talks in Geneva

JN1409203688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2005 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 14 Sep (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and head of the Iraqi delegation to the Geneva talks between Iraq and Iran returned here tonight. [passage omitted]

Details Reported on Iranian 12-13 Sep Violations

JN1409171188 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1511 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] The Iranian regime's forces continued their cease-fire violations despite the Iraqi warnings to the enemy forces to stop. INA has learned that the Iraqi Armed Forces notified the UN observers of these new violations and of the firm measures they adopted toward these violations.

In the I Army Corps sector, an enemy personnel fired four bullets from a rifle toward our units at 1250 [0850 GMT] on 13 September. UN observers witnessed this violation while they were visiting the sector. At 1800, a number of enemy personnel dug a crawl trench contrary to the cease-fire decision.

At 2207, the enemy fired two red flares from a pistol toward our units at a distance of 1 km. At 2215 the enemy fired a third flare of the same type 500 meters from our units. These violations were documented by the UN observers team.

In the II Army Corps sector at 1100 on 13 September, a group of enemy personnel dug three new combat positions 100 meters from the forward edge of their positions in an attempt to improve their positions contrary to the cease-fire.

In the III Army Corps sector, a number of enemy personnel were witnessed at 1220 carrying a camera in an attempt to take pictures of our forward positions. At 1240 they repeated their attempt. At 1900 the enemy posted a DsHK machinegun at the first barrier of its position.

At 1915 a group of enemy personnel was witnessed at a distance estimated at 300-400 in front of the enemy barrier. The enemy personnel withdrew after being warned by our units.

In the IV Army Corps, three enemy groups dug three slit trenches 500 meters from our units contrary to the cease-fire decision which prevents the setting up of new positions. At 1400 a number of enemy personnel set up an observation post 8 km from the forward edge of our units.

At 1700 the enemy set up five tents 2.5 km from our units. At 1910 an enemy helicopter was seen heading from Dehloran to ('Ayn Al-Khawsh) 1 km from the forward edge of our units. The UN observers team was notified of these Iranian violations.

In the V Army Corps sector, two enemy tanks were witnessed at 1100 on 12 September attempting to approach our forward positions. The enemy erected a new post 100 meters from the border line at 1300.

In the VII Army Corps, the enemy engineering effort continues to build a 3-meter-high concrete structure, modify a sand embankment, pave two roads, consolidate the enemy barrier, extend a perpendicular platform on the Shatt al-'Arab, and build two new positions, contrary to the cease-fire and its regulations.

Further on Criticism of U.S. Senate Decision

Students Hold Rally

JN1209183788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1722 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Sep (INA)—Twenty-two fraternal and friendly student and youth organizations in a solidarity rally held here today condemned the imperialist U.S.-Israeli conspiracy on Iraq.

Anwar Mawlud Dhiban, head of the National Union of Students and Youth in Iraq, affirmed in a speech at the rally that the U.S. Senate decision represents a treacherous operation against Iraq, a blantant intervention in its internal affairs, and an attempt to undermine its achievements—foremost of which is its historic victory over the criminal Iranian enemy.

Arab students studying in Iraq affirmed that the United States exposed its spiteful intentions and blatant prejudice against Iraq and the Arab nation in a cowardly attempt that we and the honorable people in the world reject. They added that the slanders propagated by the United States against Iraq are a deceitful attempt to trump with a losing card.

The friendly student and youth organizations denounced the stand of the American Knesset and said that the United States, which committed the crimes of Hiroshima and Vietnam and supported the racist South African and Zionist regimes, does not have the right to talk about human rights.

The student organizations' message wondered: Where were the Americans when the Iranian regime massacred the martyr children of Balat school and executed Iraqi prisoners?

The speech of the General Union of Palestinian Students described the American Knesset's decision as a vile new conspiracy against the people of Iraq in general and victorious Iraq in particular. It also described it as a scheme to detract from the fruits of the great Iraqi victory against the racist Khomeyniite onslaught.

Eritrean students studying in Iraq also condemned in the decision of the U.S. Senate against Iraq, known for its independent policy and respect for the sovereignity of the people on their lands. They affirmed that the United States—with its spiteful methods the imperialist and Zionist circles—is trying to undermine the great Iraqi victory and hamper the peace process.

The General Union of Students and Youth of Ahvaz condemned the decision of the U.S. Senate against Iraq, indicating that this decision represents a cheap attempt to mar Iraq's reputation and great capability in confronting the waves of racist prejudism in Iran.

The Lebanese students expressed condemnation and denunciation of the new conspiracy by the United States against steadfast and triumphant Iraq. They added that the U.S. Senate's conscience was dead when the criminal Zionists killed the innocent in Palestine and Lebanon and its Iranian regime committed the known crimes in Iran and elsewhere.

TV Film Shows 'Ugly Crimes'

JN1209193388 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1750 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Sep (INA)—A film called "This Is America" was shown on Baghdad televison tonight. It showed the ugly crimes the United States committed and continues to commit against mankind.

The film also showed the heavy U.S. B-52 bombers and helicopters dropping thousands of tons of incendiary and toxic bombs on Vietnam during the aggressive war it launched on a third world country, using the most modern germ and chemical weapons.

The film depicted the after-effects of the atomic bomb the United States dropped on the Japanese towns of Hiroshima and Nagasaki during World War II and the huge nuclear explosion that followed. This was a serious precedence undertaken by no state other than the United States.

The film also showed the fatal weapons the United States is extending to the Zionist entity. They will be used against the innocent Arab citizens in the occupied territories where the Zionist forces are excelling in annihilating the Arab citizens and demolishing their homes through advance planning with the United States whose conscience was not moved to stop these collective massacres.

The film also depicted the ugly crimes and practices carried out by the United States in several parts of the world through practically participating or supporting the racist regimes, like those of South Africa and the Zionist entity, or by blatantly interfering in the affairs of Panama, Central America, Latin America, and Southeast Asia. All this took place under the pretext of defending human rights.

The film refuted U.S. allegations on human rights and gave an account of Irangate, the scandal of the Zionist-American-Iranian armament cooperation. This scandal stressed that the United States only considers its colonialist interests through the mentality with which the U.S. politicians deal with the outside world where there is no room for the American humanity that is grazing in brackish waters.

The film echoed the deteriorating situation of blacks and their political and social suffering in the United States, especially since the percentage of blacks in U.S. prisons is much greater than that of whites and the execution of blacks is carried out much faster than the execution of whites, whose cases take many years. Moreover, bloody crimes spread in the United States and thieves are in every street.

USSR Community Condemns U.S.

JN1309190588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1415 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Moscow, 13 Sep (INA)—The Iraqi and Arab communities in the USSR have strongly condemned the U.S. Senate decision against Iraq and denounced its baseless allegations on Iraq's alleged use of chemical weapons in the operations of purging northern Iraq of agents and collaborators.

A mammoth speech rally was held here today. Speeches condemning the U.S. decision which is hostile to Iraq and the Arab nation were delivered during the rally.

A statement issued by the Iraqi and Arab communities said that the action of the U.S. Senate was initiated by senators who are well-known for their Zionist leanings and also for their bias against the Arabs and added that there are no reasons to justify this action.

The statement which was distributed to press organs stressed that the anti-Iraq campaign confirms that the Zionist quarters were annoyed by the success scored by Iraq in its liberation of its territory and also in checking the Khomeyniite expansionist drive—something which created a realistic possibility for establishing peace.

Papers Criticize U.S. Senate Boycott Decision

Senate Termed 'Zionist Knesset'

JN1109100588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0645 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Sep (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH today vehemently assailed the United States and said that the U.S. Senate decision was influenced by the Zionists.

In its editorial today, the newspaper stressed that Iraq will not yield to threats, will not allow the evil parties to intimidate it, and "will not fear the wolves, now that it is armed to the teeth and has experienced combat and methods of fighting."

The editorial described the U.S. Senate as "a Zionist Knesset" and said that this Senate has become "a mere shadow of the Zionist entity's policies and also of the centers of Zionist influence in the United States."

The U.S. Senate voted in favor of imposing hostile economic measures on Iraq, advancing allegations, repeatedly denied by Iraq, that it used chemical weapons in northern Iraq. Following is the text of the editorial:

O great Iraqi people, O sons of our glorious Arab nation. You remember that we have missed no opportunity to draw attention to the fact that the enemies of the Arab nation; namely, the imperialists, the Zionists, and the interests of the big powers, view any victory scored by any Arab state—especially by the Arab states whose weight has been felt throughout Arab history—as a victory scored for the entire Arab nation.

They also believe that the effects of the victory by Iraq in the Iraqi-Iranian duel cannot be restricted to the military framework. Nay, they believe that the effects of this victory permeate life in terms of perspective and action.

Hence, the evil powers view as impermissible any factor or thing that brings new tangible and effective components of strength and capability to the Arab nation. Hence, they believe that this obliges them to resist it with all the means and methods available.

On the basis of this analysis, we were on our guard against the poisonous arrows which used to go astray, thus missing their targets. We used to score further feats for the Iraqis and the Arab nation. We have never confined ourselves to the limits of our strength—the results of which the enemies of the Arab nation can adapt to. Nor have we limited ourselves to achieving gains which can be reversed by these enemies.

Thus, your revolution, the great July revolution, has thwarted all conspiracies. All the treacherous arrowheads have been broken on the parapets of this revolution, thereby preventing these arrows from hitting their targets.

On the basis of this analysis, the people and the Armed Forces have become more aware of the sources of danger and also of the means and methods used by the enemies. As a result of this, the Party strugglers have become more aware of their role and also of the sacrifices, patience, and effectiveness dictated by this role.

Thus, your party, thanks to the will of all the good people, has offered to play its role in serving the people. The Armed Forces have played their national role in defending Iraq as a homeland for the Iraqis and as a reservoir of their human, moral, spiritual, and material wealth—considering that Iraq is a part of the Arab nation and the eastern flank of the Arab nation and the greater Arab homeland. In all this, the Armed Forces have demonstrated great honor and limitless energy.

Furthermore, the people endured a great deal, while the conscience of the big conspirators remained unstirred—preventing them from ending the arrogance of Khomeyni and his henchmen. Nay, some of the big powers began to

fuel the fire with more timber—whenever it was about to be extinguished—in the hearths of those who worship fire, death, and devastation and to give them hope that the fruits of evil and malice were about to be reaped.

Thus, they used to reignite the fire. They conspired a great deal against our land and people. Consequently, they supplied Iran with weapons, advice, and instructions under the guise of various justifications. Some of these conspiracies have been unveiled, while others which remained unknown will be unveiled in the future.

These big conspirators were terrified and afraid of Iraq's overwhelming superiority and capability which allowed it to extricate the dear national soil from the paws of the occupiers.

Thus, the dear national soil returned to the lap of its mother—pure and perfumed with the martyrs' blood, unburdened with munificence, indebtedness, or an unseemly promise made by any of these evil parties which pretend that they possess the wealth of the earth, in terms of knowledge, policies, and balance of power.

Thus, those whom we know were infuriated even before this time. This infuriation was caused by old malicious factors going back to the time when Iraq nationalized its oil and returned the morsel which used to be wrenched from the mouths of those who were needing it, to its rightful owners.

Besides, Zionism stands alongside them, afraid and malicious, reminding them of their duties which would enable it to continue its tyrannical practices against our people in the occupied territories and which would also enable it to maintain the captivity of the first Qiblah [first direction of prayer] and the third holiest shrine—namely, Jerusalem—and keep it hostage to its aggression and ambitions .

The crazy powers which are big in size, small in deeds, and mean in intentions went berserk and began to inflate a cushion for the evil men in Tehran with the aim of preventing Iraq and the Arab nation from harvesting the results of their great struggle throughout 8 years—namely, a comprehensive, complete, and final peace.

They tried by all means to raise the enemy's morale—which the enemy had lost as a result of heroic strikes—resorting to cheap diplomatic and media methods, but it became clear to them that it is not possible to eliminate or weaken Iraq's military capabilities.

At times they instigated certain quarters in the United Nations to obstruct efforts to make Iran acknowledge Iraq's full rights, and at times they shoot arrows from the hideouts of diplomacy and the media.

Thus, they found the agents who placed their hands in the hands of the enemy in the northern part of the dear homeland and circulated reports about the alleged use of chemical weapons.

Britain—which had colonized Iraq in the past and was expelled from it like an old woman who had lost her nerves and shame—could do nothing except to make threats, and condemn actions whose occurrance it had not ascertained. Indeed, Turkey—the country more practically concerned with the issue than other states—had announced that Iraq did not use chemical weapons against the agents.

In the face of your great victory, the external media and political reserve forces began to emerge, following the failure of the military reserve—represented by its forces within the country and constituting a den of agentry and a vile and malicious vestige in the northern part of the homeland.

Thus, the U.S. Senate—sorry, the U.S. Knesset—appeared on the scene to exercise all its weight. The U.S. Senate has become a mere shadow of the Zionist entity's policy. The centers of Zionist influence in the United States, where those who have ambitions in the U.S. elections, are influenced by Zionist funds and by propaganda centers created by Zionists.

The U.S. Knesset approved a bill which shouts about and laments the use of chemical weapons. The U.S. Knesset, whose decisions on all fateful Arab issues were anti-Arab and at the expense of Arab rights, is calling for an economic boycott of Iraq hoping that such an economic boycott will harm Iraq. It forgets that Iraq had boycotted the United States politically and economically at the time of the Israeli aggression—coordinated with U.S. circles—against the Arab Republic of Egypt in 1967.

In general it did not deal with U.S. markets until the resumption of diplomatic relations with the United States. Economic relations are in their beginnings and their suspension will be only a pin-prick in the side of a great giant.

Let the U.S. Knesset, its masters, and those who are influenced by it, know that Iraq is not like others who are intimidated by threats. Let them know that while Iraq seeks honorable relations with all—without any complexes—it disdains any dishonorable conduct by those who linger on evil paths. Let them know that Iraq's wealth is greater than those who want to influence Iraq believe it to be.

If we were to discuss the U.S. Knesset's decision, and the attempts of those who seek to harm Iraq, and argue that if it was a matter of principle on which a stand is required, why then did the U.S. Senate not adopt a decision similar to that adopted previously when claims were circulated alleging Iraq used chemical weapons in Halabjah?

Doesn't that mean the intention is to harm Iraq's stand and reputation when the reverberations of Iraq's reputation and victories are deafening the criminals, when no country neigboring Halabjah announced that Iraq had used chemical weapons, and while Turkey has now clearly announced that Iraq did not use chemical weapons.

O great Iraqi people. O sons of our glorious Arab nation. Evil people are trying to frighten you so that you will drop your catch—that you obtained after costly sacrifices and a long march—so that others or their dogs will pick it up.

Tell the evil people you will not allow them to do that, and remind those who need to be reminded by various means—such as by writing, protesting, chanting, assembling, and demonstrating—that you do not fear the wolves after you have carried arms and gained combat experience.

Say to them in various ways that you reject their pressure on Iraq and that you are capable of aborting such wicked and cowardly pressure. We say firmly and clearly that the abhorrent days when some big powers had a free hand to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs have gone for good.

The day has come when the Iraqis and those who represent them run their own affairs and are at the helm without being shaken by the wind. Let everyone know that.

O heroic Iraqis, say to the evil at 1700 [1300 GMT] today, 11 September with your seething and angry masses that you denounce their actions, and that you are the unshakable protectors of Iraq. Let all the vile and frightened attempts be crushed under your feet. God is great. Shame to the ignonimous.

Paper on 'Conspiracy'

JN1109091588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Sep (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has asserted that Iraq will not fear any measures that might be taken by the overlords of U.S. imperialism in the U.S. Knesset and will only view them with contempt.

In an editorial here today under the headline "No Power Can Put Out the Torch of Victory," the paper says: The measures by the overlords of U.S. imperialism will not succeed in harming Iraq. If they do, their effect will only be like a light pin prick and would call for contempt for the stupid perpetrators.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says: Iraq knows how to harm those who try to harm it. It will not change the independent course it has chosen out of its own free will. Iraq will remain an Arab force terrifying the enemies of the nation and pleasing its friends. The Iraqi people will remain solidly united behind their leader.

Reviewing U.S.imperialism's hostile stands against Iraq and its joint conspiracies with Zionism against this country, the paper says: They were behind many of the arms deals obtained by the Iranian regime in its aggression against Iraq. They used to leak military information on Iraq to the Iranian regime. The last was the information on the Iraqi forces' preparations to liberate the Majnun Islands.

The paper notes that following Iraq's liberation of Al-Faw, U.S. State Department officials received the banished agent Jalal Talabani, who later became active in other U.S. agencies by spreading allegations about Iraq's use of chemical weapons.

Concluding, AL-JUMHURIYAH affirms: Iraq has expected the hostile activities against it to become more blunt and open. In fact, it has seen the first signs of a new conspiracy to discredit its victories.

The activities of the Zionist lobby and its tools in U.S. institutions are clearly aimed at encouraging the United States and its allies to sponsor Iran, harm Iraq, discredit it, and conspire against it.

'Criminal Campaign' Viewed

JN1109125588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH says that the criminal campaign led by U.S. senators will neither stop Iraq's march nor undermine its sovereignty.

The paper stressed in its editorial today that Iraq will not allow any party to interfere in its internal affairs.

AL-QADISIYAH warned that these parties might imagine that the Iraqi revolution could be shaken by their conspiracies and their media attacks, as Iraq will remain a lofty mountain in the face of the scum of the earth who accept bribes, who are aberrant, and who trade in the peoples' blood.

The paper adds that those pretentious people who use high-sounding terms and speak in a fake way are the last party to have the right to talk about man and human rights. It goes on to say:

They toppled nationalist governments for no reason other than that these governments granted their peoples some of their rights. They are advocates of racial discrimination inside and outside the United States. They are also the staunchest supporters of dictatorial regimes.

AL-QADISIYAH warned the U.S. Government against the consequences of observing the tunes of this chorus, as it will be the only party to lose if it does so.

Dailies Attack 'Propaganda'

JN1309104888 Baghdad INA in English 0927 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, Sept. 13, INA—The Iraqi daily AL-THAWRAH said that the row created by the Zionist and imperialist propaganda organs and the decision by the US Knesset cannot force Iraq to depart from its principled attitude and policy and cannot harm Iraq's decisive victory and capability.

In its editorial here today, the paper said the Iranian rulers are awaiting additional political and moral support from their Zionist and American allies and they imagine that Iraq might abandon its rights and principles because of this fuss.

AL-THAWRAH daily stressed that Iraq's attitude is firm and clear in seeking to achieve comprehensive and just peace while the Iranian regime is still manouevering to hamper peace negotiations.

AL-THAWRAH newspaper added that although the rulers in Tehran maneuver and try to go around and hamper peace negotiations, their attempts will certainly be doomed to failure. The clear fact that cannot be ignored by the Iranian rulers is that they were defeated in the war and were forced to walk on the peace path.

The daily continued that the Iranian rulers failed inside Iran and that the continuation of their current situation as it is means a dark future for their regime and, consequently, walking on the path of real peace is the only possibility to save those rulers from their deteriorating situation.

The daily said that the anti-Iraq propoganda campaign, led by the Zionists, aimed at diverting the attention of international mass media from the heroic uprising of the Palestinian people and this campaign, is doomed to failure in advance.

Meanwhile, AL-QADISIYAH daily advised the US Knesset to save its hollow decision for itself.

The daily said that Iraq—unshaken by the yellow wind blowing from the east for eight years—will not be shaken by the propaganda campaign waged by the agents in America.

It said that the US-Zionist policies that depended considerably on Khomeyni's Iran to hit the Arab will in Iraq, failed completely. This made the US Administration and Zionist lobby seek for the remaining ineffective cards to harm the Arab-Iraqi victory.

AL-QADISIYAH newspaper addressed the US Senate saying that neither the U.S. nor the Zionist entity are able to simply harm Iraq's march or to black out the Arab people's revolution in the occupied land or to harm the victory of Iraq and the Arab nation.

19,275 Kurds Return Under Amnesty Program

JN1409195188 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Al-Sulaymaniyah, Northern Iraq 14 Sep (INA)—The number of Kurds benefiting from the RCC amnesty decision amounted to 19,275 as of 2000 this evening.

The INA team in the autonomous region says that the committees formed to receive those citizens continue to extend health, food, housing, and social services to them.

In statements to the INA team, the returning Kurdish citizens expressed their great happiness with the RCC amnesty decision which gave them the opportunity to participate in building their homeland and to live in it as sincere citizens under President Saddam Husayn, the builder of great Iraq's glory.

Kurds Allocated Land

JN1109071288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Irbil, northern Iraq, the autonomous region, (INA)—Ibrahim Zankanah, the governor of Irbil, chaired in Irbil today a meeting of the heads of the administrative units and officials of the competent departments to discuss ways to ensure the best services to the Kurds benefiting from the general amnesty decision—issued by the RCC on 6 September 1988—for those who have been misled.

During the meeting it was decided to form four committees to receive those covered by the amnesty, and to allocate plots of land for housing for distribution among their families as soon as possible.

Ibrahim Zankanah met at the housing complex today with 200 families that benefitted from the amnesty decision. He talked to them about the humanitarian and national aspects of the RCC decision and the interest the party and government leadership led by President Saddam Husayn have in the Kurdistan autonomous region and their eagerness that its citizens enjoy a free and honorable life.

He said the general amnesty decision embodies the lofty principles of the glorious 17-30 July revolution which granted the Kurds their full national rights and led the region toward political, economic, and social progress.

He emphasized that the decision is a valuable opportunity for all misled Kurds to return to their homeland and live in it in freedom and dignity and take part in building it together with all the good Arabs and Kurds who defended its soil and great revolutionary achievements against the criminal Iranian enemy.

Through their songs and chants welcoming the general amnesty that gave them the opportunity to return to the homeland, the families benefitting from the RCC decision expressed their gratitude to President Saddam Husayn for the historic and humanitarian decision.

Interior Minister Returns From SFRY 11 Sep

JN1209151188 Baghdad INA in English 1410 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, Sept. 12, INA—Mr. Samir Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab, Iraqi interior minister, and the accompanying delegation returned here yesterday, concluding a several days visit to Yugoslavia.

While there, Mr. 'Abd al-Wahhab held talks with his Yugoslav counterpart on means of developing cooperation between the two countries' interior ministries.

Briefs

New Ambassador

Bissau, Sep. 9 (INA)-'Abd al-Dari, Iraqi non-resident ambassador to Guinea-Bissau, yesterday, presented his credentials to President Joao Bernardo Vieira. During the ceremony President Vieira expressed happiness for Iraq's acheivements under President Saddam Husayn's leadership stressing his country's keenness on developing bilateral relations in various fields. [Text] [*JN0909142088 Baghdad INA in English 1300 GMT 9 Sep 88*]

Prime Minister Shamir Begins Visit to Hungary

For Hungarian and Israeli accounts of the visit to Hungary by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, see the Hungary section of the 14 September East Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Rabin Denies Suggesting PLO Peace Partner

TA1509094588 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Sep 88 p 2

[Report by Dan Petreanu, Mikhal Yudelman, and David Rudge]

[Excerpt] Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday denied that he had ever suggested the PLO might be a partner in peace negotiations. He was apparently responding to speculation that his statement last Sunday—dropping the demand that any potential negotiating partner recognize Israel—was directed at PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

"Over the past seven weeks, the PLO has been unable to pick up the glove King Husayn threw down in his speech," Rabin said at meeting of Labour Party activits in Jerusalem.

Rabin tried to breathe new life into the Jordanian Option, repeating Labour's goal of "transferring a large portion of the territories to a Palestinian-Jordanian state under one flag and one capital—Amman."

Rabin attacked the Likud for "misleading the public" in suggesting that it was possible "to attain peace simply in exchange for peace."

"The same people who say this today did not salvage one square inch of Sinai during negotiations with Egypt," he noted.

At the same time, he stressed that the Jordan River should be regarded as Israel's security frontier.

"The eastern border is important, and not from where it is or is not possible to see Tel Aviv," he said, referring to Likud's argument that the city is visible from parts of the West Bank. [passage omitted]

Minister Says Egyptians Disrupting Navigation

TA1409154288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Transportation Minister Hayim Corfu has said that the Egyptians' behavior in the affair of the Israeli yacht "Maya" is a scheme to disrupt navigation and an effort to renege on the peace agreement.

During a tour of Elat, Minister Corfu rejected Egypt's demand that Israeli vessels sailing in the area be given special permits. He said that the demand is an attempt on the part of the Egyptians to add new conditions to the peace agreement.

First USSR Orchestra To Visit Arrives

TA1309195488 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Excerpt] An orchestra called the Virtuosos of Moscow arrived last night from the Soviet capital. This is the first orchestra to come to Israel from the Soviet Union, and almost all its members are Jews. The conductor is Vladimir Spivakov. In a conversation with our correspondent, he said the arrival of the orchestra is an expression of the desire to strengthen relations with Israel. [passage omitted]

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

'Cooperating' Arab Murdered

TA1409114188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] In Nabulus, a local resident was stabbed to death last night by masked men who dragged him from his house after midnight. Arab sources say he was suspected of cooperating with security forces.

This morning a 12-year old boy was hurt by a rubber bullet when youths threw stones at soldiers who went to the onion market to investigate the circumstances of the murder.

The curfew is still in force at the Tulkarm and Nur al-Shams refugee camps and the Husan and 'Azzun villages.

7 Wounded by IDF at Khan Yunus

TA1409114988 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Seven residents of the Khan Yunus refugee camp were shot and wounded this morning by the IDF while dispersing demonstrations in the camp. Our correspondent 'Ezra Yanuv reports:

The disturbances in the Khan Yunus refugee camp followed a quiet day throughout most of the Gaza Strip. At approximately 1130 youths in the refugee camp stoned an IDF patrol. When the soldiers' lives became endangered they fired plastic bullets in the direction of the rioters. An initial announcement mentioned seven local residents wounded by IDF fire, and their condition is not clear. Some were hospitalized at the Al-Nasir Hospital in Khan Yunus, while others were taken to a hospital in Gaza.

The morning started out peacefully in the Gaza Strip. The curfew on the Al-Shati' and Al-Burayj refugee camps was lifted, and many of the workers left for their jobs in Israel. Heavy morning traffic caused traffic jams on the roads in the south. In the northern sector of the Gaza Strip, the operation to change the license plates of local cars was resumed after a holiday recess.

Khan Yunus is quiet again at the moment, and commerce in the region is normal.

3 Wounded by IDF in Al-Shati'

TA1509055188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] More clashes between Army troops and Palestinians: Last night at least three Arabs were wounded by Army fire in the Al-Shati' refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. Today, security forces are bracing themselves for more violence as Palestinian activists have declared a so-called day of reckoning with those suspected of cooperation with Israeli authorities. Steve Rodan has more:

Palestinians again confronted Israeli soldiers last night, this time in the Gaza Strip refugee camp of Al-Shati'. Military sources say Arab residents left their residences at nightfall. They burned tires and threw stones at Israeli patrols. The soldiers responded with tear gas, rubber bullets, and finally live ammunition. Military sources said three Arabs were injured; Arab sources put the number at nine.

In the Samarian region, clashes erupted between Arabs and the Army. In Nabulus, an Army patrol was attacked. The soldiers fired, and one youngster was injured in the leg. In the village of Buruqin near Nabulus another patrol was attacked. An Arab was shot and wounded.

Meanwhile, security forces are bracing for another day of violence. Communique No 25 of the uprising leadership has declared today a day of reckoning with Arabs who collaborate with Israel and has urged supporters to, in its words, clean up internal front collaborators. What exactly that means no one really knows.

In the past few weeks many Arabs have been attacked in feuds between local clans, and they were accused of collaborating with Israel. Regardless, the Civil Administration has taken steps to ensure that its more than 18,000 employees will arrive to work. Officials say that despite the 9-month old uprising, there has been no wave of Arab resignations from the Civil Administration.

IDF Shoots Gazan

TA1509092788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] An Arab youth was killed in Gaza last night by the IDF after a firebomb was hurled at a military patrol. The device hit the patrol commander's leg, but exploded on the road. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the commander fired in the direction from which the firebomb was thrown, and soldiers later found the body of the Arab youth.

This morning an IDF patrol in the Rafah area discovered an explosive device planted at the side of the road and set to go off. It was defused by our forces.

A curfew is in force in several Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza Strip locations. The curfew imposed on Khan Yunus yesterday after a mass riot during which seven people were shot and wounded by the IDF continues.

In Judaea and Samaria, the curfew on the villages of Husan and 'Azzun and the Tulkarm refugee camp continue. Our correspondent reports that Israeli vehicles were stoned last night in the Qalqilyah area. One of the passengers was slightly hurt by pieces of glass.

Air Force Revises Training To Reduce Dangers

TA1509091888 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Sep 88 p 12

[Text] The Israel Air Force [IAF] has introduced changes into its aerial training programmes which are intended to reduce flight dangers while maintaining an optimal simulation of real time battle situations, within the stringent time and space limitations within which training is conducted, military sources said yesterday.

These changes have grown out of the investigation into the causes of the crash of two IAF F-15s in which both pilots were killed over the Judaean Desert a month ago.

The final report on the causes of the crash in which Rav-Seren [Major] Ehud Falk and Sgan-Aluf [Lieutenant Colonel] Ram Koller were killed has not yet been submitted.

Military Viewed as More Aware Than Politicians

TA1409192488 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 8 Sep 88 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Military Force Is Not the Solution"]

[Text] In the biggest operation mounted by Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank since the beginning of the uprising, they sealed the town of Qalqilyah 2 days ago and imposed a curfew, which was followed by a large-scale house-to-house search in the town, its suburbs, and in the surrounding fields.

We do not intend to discuss the operation itself, but there is a certain meaning in what some Israelis have said about it. Israeli settlers expressed their satisfaction with this operation and acknowledged that it was conducted under their pressure.

They went further than this and called for similar operations in other parts of the occupied territories even before the effectiveness of such an operation became known. But 'Amram Mitzna', commander of the Central Command and the man most aware of the situation in the occupied territories, said that Israelis should not be disappointed if acts of violence continue in this region even after the operation.

A comparison of these two statements indicates that the government, facing general elections, wants to satisfy the settlers at any price by giving in to their demands in order to gain their votes.

On the other hand, Mitzna''s statement proves that the military command is more aware than the politicians, and that this command is convinced through its experience during 9 months in the field that the uprising cannot be dealt with by military operations no matter how massive or large-scale they may be.

The uprising, which is on the threshhold of its 10th month, needs a political approach and treatment of another kind, the most important of which is recognition of the Palestinian presence as well as sincere and serious action to find political solutions that will convince the two sides in the conflict that their demands will be met.

Experts throughout the political spectrum acknowledge that Shamir's policy has become hostage to Israeli right-wing extremism and that Shamir has led himself into an impasse from which it is difficult to emerge.

Continued suppression of the uprising will increase the scope of criticism against Israel. Furthermore, it will increase Israel's isolation not only in the Western world, but also among world Jewish quarters which have claimed for decades that they have taught the world the values of human justice.

What makes matters more complicated is that any backing down by Shamir in favor of the Palestinians will arouse the wrath of right-wing extremists, who will consider this a defeat. They believe that any retreat will increase Palestinian opposition and will consolidate the uprising. Thus, Shamir's government is continuing to suppress the uprising and intensifying measures against residents.

History, however, is replete with countries that conquered other nations. The Israeli Government has chosen to ignore history, but eventually the Israeli people will see that not only is this policy fruitless, but it will widen the gap between the two peoples and will make the chance of finding a solution to the problem more remote. Above all, this policy will eliminate the possibility of coexistence between the two peoples.

Preparations Underway for Meeting With PLO

JN1409150188 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Randa Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] In a statement to our radio today, Ahmad Qatanani, director general of the Palestinian Affairs department [at the Jordanian Foreign Ministry], affirmed that preparations are underway to hold a meeting in Amman before the end of this month for the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee for supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the occupied territory.

This is the first meeting of this committee since Jordan disengaged its relationship with the West Bank at the end of July. Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri is expected to lead the Jordanian side.

The foreign minister assumed the tasks of the occupied territories affairs minister in chairing the Jordanian delegation after dissolving the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs and replacing it with the Palestinian Affairs Department affiliated with the Foreign Ministry.

Qatanani said: During the meeting, the joint committee will review the needs for the coming stage and the financial status of the committee in light of the available resources. The joint committee will discuss methods to urge the Arab countries contributing to the committee fund to fulfill their commitments. Since the committee was formed in 1978, approximately $434 million were paid to the committee, that is, less than 50 per cent of these countries' obligations.

The joint committee's last meeting was held in March to discuss the distribution of a $19 million-grant from Saudi Arabia as a part of its 1986 contribution which ammounts to $28.5 million.

A PLO delegation led by Mahmud 'Abbas, Abu Mazin, is expected to arrive in Amman in the coming days to participate in the committee's meetings for the Palestinian side.

Papers Assail U.S. Stand Against Iraq

AL-RA'Y Charges 'Hypocrisy'

JN1109141088 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 11 Sep 88 p 22

["Arab Opinion" column by Mahmud al-Rimawi: "U.S., Israeli Hypocrisy"]

[Text] It is indeed curious for Washington to lead a feverish campaign against Iraq's alleged use of chemical weapons against the Kurds and to threaten to adopt measures and sanctions against Iraq when U.S. officials and members of Congress are turning a blind eye to the Israeli occupation forces.

These forces daily commit serious violations of human rights against a defenseless people whose sole aim is to attain freedom and independence. True, Washington occsaionally makes shy critical remarks against some of Israel's practices, but these U.S. stands are seldom backed by measures or sanctions against Tel Aviv.

On the contrary, they often are followed by more U.S. aid and grants that are used to enhance the performance of the Israeli oppressive machine, the very target of those shy critical remarks—remarks that only aim at pulling the wool over people's eyes and covering up the unholy alliance between Washington and Tel Aviv against Palestinian and Arab rights.

While Israeli practices are widely condemned, especially by Western missions that have visited detention camps and hospitals in the occupied territories, Tel Aviv continues to refuse to safeguard human rights and abandon its criminal practices on the pretext that security is more important than Israel's world prestige.

Tel Aviv, which has joined the chorus bewailing human rights and condemning the alleged use of chemical weapons, is itself foremost in the use of internationally banned weapons through its use of napalm bombs against civilians in the 1967 war and today.

Iraqi officials did well in challenging anyone to prove Iraq's use of those weapons. According to Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, nobody can present evidence of the use of such weapons, because such evidence does not exist. On top of that, Iraq has expressed readiness to receive a neutral international body to investigate the matter.

Of course, nobody can support or even justify the use of such weeapons if they have indeed been used. Hopes now are pinned on finding a just, democratic solution to the Kurdish issue, absolving the Kurds of any responsibility for the errors of their leaders.

Perhaps the general amnesty announced by Iraq constitutes a good, serious beginning toward such an honorable solution, which must be commended and welcomed. This is contrary to the action taken by Washington, whose campaign has coincided with the Iraqi decision in an obvious attempt to divert attention from this decision.

Iraq's pioneering experiment of granting autonomy to the Kurds in their areas and giving them control over their public life also deserves to be reinforced by revising it and tackling any shortcomings and loopholes.

What is also curious is that the U.S. campaign has coincided with the stumbling of the Geneva negotiations due to Iran's attempts to avoid signing a treaty of peace, nonaggression, and good-neighborliness. It is as if this campaign means to bolster the intransigent Iranian stand, throw new monkey wrenches into the machinery of negotiations, and give cart blanche to the pro-U.S. group in the Iranian administration.

Earlier this year, Iraq was courageous enough to announce that it had been forced to use chemical weapons in some battles with the Iranian forces when the latter used such weapons and expanded their aggression against Iraq, thereby ignorning all peace calls.

And, here is Iraq today announcing with the same courage its categorical denial of having used these weapons against the Kurds. The announcement by Turkey, which has received large numbers of Kurds, that it saw no evidence of such weapons is eyewitness evidence that such weaons have not been used.

However, U.S. and Israeli hypocrisy does not care about facts, especially when they spoil its mean game that is being played to discredit Iraq—great victorious Iraq, which is expected to bolster the Arab front and face U.S. and Zionist plans.

AL-RA'Y on 'Western Imperialist'

JN1209093288 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 12 Sep 88 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "A Cheap Attempt To Blackmail The Arab Nation"]

[Text] Neither the Iraqis nor the Arab nation need testimony from anyone on what values they should uphold and what principles they should comply with. All the messages of faith and ethics have emerged from the soil of the Arab nation, and values and principles evolved from its ranks.

Therefore, it becomes difficult, indeed ludicrous, for societies governed by terrorism and condemned for hostility to freedom and man, societies that constantly resort to invasion and occupation, to teach our nation lessons in humanity and lecture slogans divested of their noble contents.

The campaign against fraternal Iraq was exposed before it began. Its objectives have become clear through the parties that planned and initiated the campaign. When the U.S. Congress decides to impose sanctions on Iraq with such speed and sharpness, the question answers itself.

The principal heading of the Western campaign—led by the United States—is an attempt to suppress the state of awakening that heralds well for the Arab nation—as President Saddam Husayn has said—and to seek to tame Iraq and compel it to forfeit its rights, and to rob it of the great victory it achieved for the entire homeland and the whole nation.

The United States and its allies want the Arab nation to remain subjected to defeat and the Iraqis have foiled what they wanted. The United States and its allies want the Arabs to accede to death, humiliation, and capitulation, but the Iraqis have turned the tables against them.

The United States and its allies want the Arabs to reach the humiliating conclusion that it is useless to confront the Zionist enemy, the Western camp, backwardness, and ignorance, and the only way is to be subservient to others. However, Iraq's victories have demolished all that and faced the nation with potential forces and capabilities to wrest every inch of land and right usurped from it.

Those who remain silent on Lebanon's tragedy and seek to perpetrate it, those who remain silent on Israeli repression, bone-breaking, and besieging Palestinians with starvation, thirst, and arrests, and those who scorched Vietnam with poison, Algeria with banned gases and weapons, and Aden, and burned schools, factories, and innocent refugee camps with napalm and vacuum bombs, do not have the right to talk about values and principles, nor shed crocodile tears over human rights.

Those who have turned Latin America into jungles of death and oppression through the facist regimes they created and are anxious to protect, are the last people to give Iraq and the Arab nation a lesson in nobility and purity. Throughout the war, Iraq was humanitarian and its actions and ethics were governed by its nation's message and the divine messages that were nurtured in the Arab nation's land.

These are things whose greatness it is difficult for a Western imperialist to understand. It is difficult for any society governed by the Mafia, terrorism, daily killings, the malaises of the age, and the loss of minimum ethical and humanitarian commitment, to come anywhere near the noble values and great principles of the nation which presented them to the world to guide it along the path of morals and faith, and not to the path of darkness, terrorism, and attempt to blackmail peoples—all of which are defeated.

The Iraqi victory is living proof of that, a victory that has provoked all this anger and hatred among the United States and its allies.

SAWT AL-SHA'B: 'Unjust' Campaign

JN1209101288 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 12 Sep 88 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "Why the Anti-Iraq Suspect Campaign Now?"]

[Text] Why is a suspect campaign being launched against Iraq by some quarters? Why is Iraq accused of using chemical weapons against the Kurdish rebels? Who benefits from this misleading, unjust campaign?

Why is this campaign underway now, and why it is laden with rancor, distortion, and incitement? Why do the launchers of this campaign continue their deception through various mass media and through international forums and exploit this campaign—based on unfounded reports—to harm Iraq and its reputation and to impose ready-made sanctions against it?

Based on tangible evidence, Iraq vehemently denied all the bases and pillars on which this campaign is based. At the same time, the Turkish Government, which is a neutral side and concerned about the Kurds, denied that this type of weapon was used against the Kurds who live on the border area with Turkey or have moved into it. This denial was based on medical checks conducted on many groups of Kurds.

Western circles hostile to fraternal Iraq launched this campaign, believed it, and founded a material stand on it, in order to benefit the enemies of peace in the region, headed by Israel and Iran, which faces the impasse of peace launched by Iraq after its war successes.

Many circles have worked and continue to work to prevent peace from prevailing in the Gulf area, continue bloodshed, and hamper the withdrawal of combat troops, the exchange of POW's, and development in the two neighboring countries which have been exhausted by the 8-year war.

Undoubtedly, aggressor Iran was forced to accept the cease-fire by the strength of Iraq and the will of the international community as expressed by UN Security Council Resolution No 598 which was accepted and defended by Iraq and made a basis for negotiations.

Peace-loving Iraq's continued victory in the battle of peace and rebuilding of its domestic and foreign stands, in a manner guaranteeing the success of the Geneva talks, were not welcomed by its enemies and the enemies of its nation. Therefore, these enemies began to place obstacles before it to weaken its concentration on its issues and just demands in its territorial waters and national rights.

This is especially since it has emerged from the war more determined to remove the effects of and reasons for the war. Iraq's wise leadership adopted a number of measures. One of these was the general amnesty affecting all Kurdish citizens who left Iraq.

Iraq opened a new chapter with them despite all the excesses, violations, and stabbing in the back by some groups linked with circles hostile to Iraq and its orientations. Iran and western quarters exploited specific cases of some Kurdish groups to pronounce anti-Iraq stands. When they found that capable and tolerant Iraq has denied them this opportunity by the amnesty measures, they launched their campaign which was welcomed by some quarters, not because of their love for the Kurds and their rights and issues, but because of rancor against Iraq and its people, victories, and love for peace.

The declared stands of capable Iraq expose those who cast doubts and hate the achievement of a just and durable peace based on good-neighborliness. While implementing this task, Iraq is worthy of being supported by all peace-loving forces.

Having defended its national soil on the eastern flank of the Arab homeland, maintained the Arab order, and defeated one of the fiercest invasions in the history of the Arabs, Iraq finds that every Arab is dutybound to exert all he can to prevent the unjust campaign against it from achieving its objectives through exposing it to friends and peace-lovers and not paying attention to its unrealistic contents.

TIMES Calls U.S. Candidates 'Gladiators'

JN1109084088 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Sep 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Buy Votes Now, Pay Later"]

[Text] The performance of both Vice President George Bush and Governor Michael Dukakis, the U.S. Republican and Democratic presidential contenders, before Bnai Brith last Wednesday, was a misfortune for American statemanship.

The two gentlemen acted more like gladiators than responsible leaders of their respective parties. Their willingness to outbid one another in support of Israel and its bankrupt policies shocked all of us who watched it with dismay and disbelief.

Mr. Bush assured the Jewish constituency in the United States, and through them Israel, that under this administration, the United States would neither accept an effective United Nations role in settling the Arab-Israeli conflict nor accept a Palestinian state on the West Bank.

His reasoning was unfortunate and untenable. Interpreting United Nations involvement in the Middle East peace process as tantamount to imposing a solution on Israel is most regrettable. Calling any future Palestinian state a "threat" to Israel is also unwarranted.

For how can a truncated and demilitarised state pose a threat to Israel, a country with nuclear capabilities? By insinuating that such a state would also threaten the security and stability of Jordan, Mr. Bush went beyond the realm of reality.

Jordan, in fact, calls for the establishment of such a state, and its decision to break all legal and administrative relations with the West Bank was intended for the very purpose of realising an independent Palestinian option.

Governor Dukakis sadly attempted to outbid Mr. Bush in support of Israel. For by asserting that Washington will never accept a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, no matter how just and legitimate, if it is rejected by Israel, Mr. Dukakis has permanently mortgaged his country's national interests to Israel.

In a further desperate effort to outmatch Mr. Bush on the rejection of any possible Palestinian state, Mr. Dukakis offered not only to reject such a state but also to reject any palestinian government in exile or provisional government.

Since the Palestinians have not determined their future course of action, is it not a bit premature to preempt any future Palestinian national decision?

It is sad to see would-be statesmen so lose sight of all long-term interests, their own included, in the short-term hunt for votes.

Syrian Defense Minister Arrives To Inspect Troops
NC1509135888 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] Under the pretext of inspecting the Syrian occupation forces in the areas of Rashayya and Western al-Biqa' which are adjacent to the southern border region, Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas arrived in Lebanon today, without the knowledge of the Lebanese authorities.

New Group Claims Attempted Abduction of American
NC1409162888 Paris AFP in English 1619 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Beirut, Sept 14 (AFP)—A previously unknown group, the Lebanese National Progressive Front, claimed responsibility Wednesday for the short-lived abduction of an American engineer two days earlier in Ba'labakk.

The group, in a typed Arabic communique delivered to an international news agency here, claimed it "abducted then released" Kenneth Paul Wells "after interrogating him and ordering him to leave Lebanon."

The statement was authenticated by a photocopy of Mr. Wells' driver's license and a pass from the Saudi Defense and Aviation Ministry, where he is employed as a technician.

The group claimed that Mr. Wells was "a U.S. intelligence officer who came to Lebanon on a month-long espionage mission under the cover of marrying a Lebanese."

Gunmen abducted Mr. Wells in Ba'labakk, a Shi'ite Moslem city in eastern Lebanon controlled by the Syrian Army, just after his marriage to a local woman.

According to his in-laws, Mr. Wells disarmed two of his captors with karate blows and fled to a nearby Syrian guardpost. The Syrians—who maintain they rescued Mr. Wells after a few hours of captivity—conducted him to Damascus.

The communique condemned "U.S. interference in our internal affairs," particularly the presidential election to take place by September 23.

"The Americans should learn that it is our people and their (pro-Syrian) national forces who will determine their own destiny," the statement said.

U.S. State Department spokesman Charles Redman on Monday thanked Syria for the assistance provided to Mr. Wells.

Museum Crossing Point Reopens 15 Sep
NC1509075988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] The Museum-Al-Barbir crossing point was reopened at 0930 today after the Lebanese Army rescinded yesterday's extraordinary measures limiting passage to travelers and diplomats.

Thus, passage through this crossing point is back to normal for permit-holding civilians, diplomats, deputies, and military vehicles. Army Commander General 'Awn yesterday explained to Acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss that the closure of the crossing point was a precautionary measure to be in effect for only a few hours.

Birri, Dastmalchiyan Discuss Amal, Hizballah
NC1409134588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Following a meeting with Amal Leader Minister Nabih Birri, Iranian Ambassador to Lebanon Ahmad Dastmalchiyan stated that they discussed the current critical and sensitive situation in Lebanon. He added that they also reviewed the general Islamic situation in the country.

Dastmalchiyan expressed the view that in the present difficult and delicate circumstances all Muslims and sincere people should join forces to avert the dangers stemming from the conspiracies which have been carried out and are still being carried out against Lebanon by arrogant and Zionist circles.

The Iranian ambassador also stated that they discussed the prospects for reconciliation between Amal and Hizballah. He said: We reached agreement regarding the adoption of practical measures to end this anomalous situation. He expressed the hope that a reconciliation meeting would be held soon.

Israeli Aircraft Overfly Sidon, Camps
NC1509081788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] Sirens were sounded in Sidon at 1045 today when Israeli warplanes flew over the city. Earlier today, Israeli aircraft flew over Sidon and adjacent camps.

Resistance Group Attacks Israelis, Other Targets
NC1509083588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] A Lebanese Resistance Group—Amal, has carried out two operations against Israeli occupation forces and their agents. In the first operation, the resistance men clashed with a patrol belonging to the Antoine Lahd army for 10 minutes on Buslayya Road at 0530 today.

The members of the patrol were killed or injured in the clash. One member of the resistance group was injured and taken to the liberated areas.

The second operation took place on the Al-Turrah-al-Suwaydah Road, where resistance men detonated an explosive device when an enemy patrol comprising two vehicles passed. One vehicle was burned in the explosion. The Israeli forces retaliated by bombarding adjacent areas with 120-mm artillery.

Explosive Charge Wounds 2 Southern Army Soldiers
NC1409095388 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Two soldiers of the South Lebanese Army [SLA] were wounded this morning when an explosive charge planted along the road to Kafr Falus exploded.

SLA soldiers immediately searched the area and then shelled Lib'a and 'Ayn al-Mir.

In another development, four shells fell in Hasbaya today without causing any injuries.

Syrian Position Attacked; 2 Soldiers Wounded
NC1409055188 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] The Khalil 'Akkawi unit of the 9 February Organization has claimed responsibility for detonating an explosive device targeted at a Syrian occupation position in the Clemenceau area at midnight last night. Two Syrian soldiers have been wounded, according to a spokesman for the organization.

Amal Releases 23 Palestinian Detainees
NC1409163488 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] The Amal Movement has released 23 Palestinian detainees at one of its offices in the South in the presence of [name indistinct], the center's security official. The Amal security bureau in the South issued a statement in which it affirmed that this step is designed to restore unity between the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples.

Al-Huss Receives Messages From Algerian Leaders
NC1409134588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has received messages from the Algerian political leadership, foremost among them President Chadli Bendjedid. The messages emphasize Algerian interest in Lebanon and the need to end the Lebanese crisis soon by joining the efforts of all the Lebanese people.

The messages were conveyed by the new Algerian ambassador to Lebanon, (Al-Khaled al-Hasnawi), who presented his credentials to Acting Prime Minister al-Huss at noon today.

Answering a question on the messages he carried, the Algerian ambassador said they are designed to urge Lebanese officials to hold the election within the constitutional deadline. The ambassador expressed hope that the Lebanese will reach a solution, particularly with regard to the election, because the crisis is serious and will become even more so should the election not take place.

Al-Shar', Richard Murphy Hold Talks 14 Sep

JN1409162788 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Damascus— Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this morning received Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, and his accompanying delegation.

The meeting was attended by Yusuf Shakkur and Diya'ullah al-Fattal, assistants to the foreign minister, and Raslan 'Allush, head of the America desk [at the Foreign Ministry]. The meeting dealt with all aspects of the situation in Lebanon.

Khaddam Affirms Stand to Murphy

JN1409181788 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, and his delegation at 1900 today

Discussion revolved around the situation in Lebanon and the current developments in the Lebanese arena.

The vice president affirmed Syria's constant policy toward sisterly Lebanon. He also affirmed Syria's support for Lebanon's national unity and backing for the achievement of a national accord among the Lebanese leading to the removal of the causes which started the Lebanese crisis and to the restoration of security, stability, and peace to the brotherly Lebanese people.

The meeting was attended on the Syrian Arab side by Yusuf Shakkur, assistant foreign minister.

Interview With Foreign Minister Reported

PM1209155188 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Sep 88 pp1,2

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' by Ghassan Shirbil on 9 September in Nicosia]

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' holds some "foreign powers" and "a small isolationist minority" responsible for obstructing the presidential elections in Lebanon.

He said that his country believes that nothing should prevent resumption of the dialogue with the United States "if the U.S. Administration reconsiders its calculations regarding its position on the obstruction process."

Al-Shar' was speaking to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday in Nicosia, where he attended the ninth conference of the Nonaligned Movement.

On the current crisis in Lebanon which threatens to prevent the holding of the presidential elections before the constitutional deadline of 23 September, Al-Shar' said:

"Syria has made intensive efforts, especially in this last period, to promote national accord in Lebanon and to help ensure that the presidential elections take place on schedule without delay. Unfortunately, however, some known foreign powers have jeopardized the election process through a disregard for Lebanon's interests and through a miscalculation regarding Syrian-Lebanese historical and geographical relations. These foreign powers and their tools, representing a small isolationist minority in Lebanon, are responsible for the obstruction process and for the current vacuum in the country. The statement issued by the nationalist and Islamic forces (the Carlton meeting) and the positions taken by numerous Lebanese figures had placed them [the foreign powers] in a dilemma. We believe that they must reconsider their calculations if they want a way out of this dilemma."

Answering a question on the possibility of a resumption of the U.S.-Syrian dialogue on Lebanon and reports about the possible arrival of a U.S. envoy in Damascus shortly, he said:

"I have said that certain foreign powers are responsible for obstructing the election process. If the U.S. Administration reconsiders its calculations, particularly in connection with its position on the obstruction process, then there would be nothing to prevent resumption of the dialogue. As is commonly known, Syria's main aim in Lebanon is to help the Lebanese brothers overcome the abnormal conditions, restore peace and security to Lebanon, and promote national accord. Therefore, the attitudes of others are positive or negative depending on their belief in these objectives or their attempt to hamper them."

When asked if Syria would deal with a transitional government which might be formed by President Amin al-Jumayyil if elections proved impossible before the constitutional deadline, he replied:

"The statement of the nationalist forces and parties in Lebanon is clear regarding such a government. It is also clear that the government of Dr Salim al-Huss derives its legitimacy from the fact that the majority of the Lebanese people, Muslims and Christians, see it as a government representing Lebanon and manifesting the minimum requirements on which all the Lebanese sides interested in Lebanon's unity, sovereignty, and Arab identity agree."

[Shirbil] Does this mean that you would not deal with an interim government?

[Al-Shar'] Did you think that we would?

Asked what would be Syria's position if a Palestinian government-in-exile is declared, Al-Shar' said:

"This is a matter for the Palestinians to decide, but on the other hand Syria, as a confrontation state with historical ties with Palestine and as a state which has sacrificed much for the Palestinian cause, is concerned with the Palestinian question. We believe that any step or initiative which undermines Palestinian national unity or causes more Palestinian divisions is a negative step or initiative."

We asked his opinion of statements made by PLO officials to the effect that there is nothing new in its relations with Syria, that there is currently no mediation, and that relations between the two sides would depend on Syria's attitude. He replied:

"Syria has taken known and declared positions on all issues raised in the Arab world. We have always said that relations between Syria and others are determined by how close to or distant from these positions the others are. It is clear that in the Palestinian arena there are varying, contradictory, and conflicting views. We therefore believe that the main problem is unification of that arena. It is the absence of a unification process which creates misunderstanding and views that run contrary to Syria's declared principled positions. Therefore, Syria cannot be held responsible for the misunderstanding, particularly since President al-Asad emphasized during his Damascus and Algiers meetings with 'Arafat that we in Syria saw these two meetings as turning over a new leaf in relations and that it was up to 'Arafat and the Palestinian brothers to define their relations with Syria through what they write on this new position and what they commit themselves to."

The Syrian minister condemned the Iraqi role in Lebanon, maintaining that the Iraqi interference has hostile objectives.

LE MONDE Interview

PM1309112688 Paris LE MONDE in French 13 Sep 88 p 4

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' by Francoise Chipaux in Nicosia—date not given]

[Text] Nicosia—With less than 2 weeks to go before the Lebanese presidential election, at a time when there is complete deadlock between former President Sulayman Franjiyah's supporters, backed by Syria, and the Lebanese Forces' Christian militia, allied to President Amin al-Jumayyil and backed by the United States, who oppose him as candidate, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' told us that a solution making it possible to hold the Lebanese presidential election before 23 September is still possible.

"Nothing is impossible if the Americans reconsider their position," he told us in Nicosia, where he was attending the nonaligned countries' ninth ministerial conference.

Blaming the United States and its allies for the present crisis, the minister said:

"Over the past few months the Americans have told us on numerous occasions that they are not opposed to major political reforms in Lebanon to achieve national reconciliation. They also said that they could not ignore Syria's important constructive role in helping Lebanon in this reconciliation. They have suddenly backpedaled and we think that they have miscalculated, because Syria still has a major role to play in helping Lebanon to achieve its objectives, even if the United States has changed its mind."

Is this sudden change connected, as Beirut alleges, with the new regional situation resulting from Iran's request for a cease-fire in the Gulf war? Without wishing to give his own view on this point, Mr al-Shar' said:

"If that is what the Americans think, they are completely wrong, because Syria's position has not changed at all, regardless of whether the Gulf war ends or not. Syria's strength is based on its self-confidence under President Hafz al-Asad's wise and courageous leadership and on the Syrian people's support for this policy."

Is Syrian-American dialogue continuing nonetheless? "Not at a high level," Mr al-Shar' said.

[Chipaux] What does Damascus want from Washington?

[Al-Shar'] It wants a better understanding of the region's problems, which cannot be obtained with its policy of unconditional support for Israel, who is occupying Arab territory, including the Syrian Golan Heights, and a sincere contribution to the search for a just settlement to the Israeli-Arab conflict on the basis of the UN resolutions. [Al-Shar' ends]

Have the Americans honored their pledge to make the Lebanese Forces toe the line in Lebanon? Mr al-Shar' replied:

"Instead of exerting pressure on the elements hindering the presidential election (although the minister did not mention any names, he was referring to the Lebanese Forces and President Amin al-Jumayyil), the United States has encouraged them. This phenomenon is inconsistent with what it told us just a few months ago about the need for broad political reform in Lebanon to encourage national reconciliation."

The Palestinians' Future

In Mr al-Shar's view, the Lebanese Government led by Salim al-Huss, which has resigned, is still "very representative of the country, because it emerged from the

Lausanne agreements and it is this government which the majority of Lebanese accepted and in which Christians and Muslims have equal representation."

What if President Amin al-Jumayyil appoints a new government, as the Constitution allows him to do if no president is elected?

"Any government," the Syrian foreign minister replied, "would be the creation of a president who only has minority support, and that is why the majority of Lebanese regard that as a very dangerous step which could lead to the country's partition."

"The situation would become explosive," he added.

Is a military confrontation possible? "We hope not," Mr al- Shar' merely said, refusing to "speculate" on the probability of an election before 23 September, stating that "Mr Sulayman Franjiyah is still a candidate."

Another acute problem directly facing Syria is the Palestinian problem. Mr al-Shar' welcomed the decision by King Husayn of Jordan to give up control of the West Bank for "two main reasons."

"First," he said, "this makes it clear to the international community that the Palestinian people's national rights must be satisfied and puts an end to the pretexts habitually used by the Americans and Israelis to deny those rights. Second, it destroys Israel's great plan to turn Jordan into a Palestinian state, as Mr Shamir and Mr Sharon have already stated. The king's decision stripped the Israelis, and possibly some other elements, of any pretext for making Jordan a substitute for Palestine."

Does this mean Syria is in favor of the establishment of a provisional Palestinian government or a Palestinian government in exile? "That is a matter for the Palestinians," the Syrian foreign minister quickly replied, before adding:

"As a confrontation state and in view of the fact that we are concerned to see Palestinian national rights restored, we do not want any more divisions in Palestinian ranks or any negative repercussions on the uprising. We therefore think that any approach or initiative which could affect Palestinian national unity or increase the divisions among the different factions ought not to be contemplated. This is especially true of any negative initiative which might undermine the uprising, to which we must give more support."

So, what should the Palestinians do? "The priority," Mr al- Shar' said, "is to unify Palestinian ranks and, in order to consolidate that unity, to reconsider all previous decisions which negatively affected PLO unity. Second, they ought to work for real Arab solidarity which consolidates and strengthens the Arab position toward Israel. Unfortunately, they are now working in a context which does the opposite and this exposes them to great weakness in their struggle to secure restoration of their national rights."

"The uprising," Mr al-Shar' continued, "was started mainly by Palestinian refugees in the camps on the West Bank and in the Gaza strip. However, even if there was an Israeli withdrawal, those people's rights would not be respected. Any lasting solution ought to take account of those people's right to return, because they did not launch the uprising just to remain where they are as refugees."

Afghanistan

Spokesman Criticizes Pakistani 'Propaganda'

LD1409181388 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] In rejecting Pakistan's allegations that military aircraft of the Republic of Afghanistan violated Pakistani airspace on 12 September in the area of (Nawakay), where two of these aircraft were shot down, a spokesman of the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the following:

The baseless and false claims by the Pakistani authorities are a part of the unbridled propaganda carried out at the time of the conference of foreign ministers of the nonaligned countries in Nicosia.

This propaganda is being continuously expanded. This time, however, Pakistan's propaganda is directed at the forthcoming sessions of the UN General Assembly. By voicing such propaganda Pakistan is trying to ignore its blatant and open violation of the Geneva accords.

The violations, which are clear to all peace-loving peoples, are unbelievably bitter. The world public knows very well that the existence of camps and military training in Pakistan, the export by the United States of advanced weapons and ammunition—which the United States does not conceal—the existence of weapons and ammunition depots belonging to extremist elements in Pakistan, the active participation of Pakistani military advisers in the undeclared war against the Republic of Afghanistan, and many other examples, all are blatant violation of the Geneva accords.

So far, 468 cases of blatant violations by Pakistan have been brought to the attention of the UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] in 81 notes.

As before, the Government of Pakistan, by unleashing such a propaganda hue and cry, wants on one hand to prepare the ground for intensification of interference in the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan and on the other to draw the attention of the people of Pakistan who are impatiently waiting for a government of law and order and the restoration of democracy in that country, to the claims fabricated by the Pakistani authorities.

If the Pakistani Government is not pursuing a devious policy by the continuation of such propaganda then why does it reject the setting up of a special commission as proposed by the Republic of Afghanistan to consider such allegations.

On the basis of the above proposal a commission consisting of the representatives of four countries—signatories to the Geneva accords, that is, Afghanistan, Pakistan, the USSR, and the United States—under the supervision of the UNGOMAP, would comprehensively consider the claims made by Pakistan.

Pakistan's nonacceptance of such a commission is no surprise because objective consideration of the issue would further prove the baseless nature of claims by this country.

It is no accident that the local people said they were unaware of the shooting down of the aircraft when they were asked about the event, as reported in today's issue of THE MUSLIM newspaper.

The Republic of Afghanistan is earnestly endeavoring for unreserved implementation of the Geneva accords and the normalization of the situation around the country.

It expects the Pakistani authorities to refrain from any kind of irresponsible action which would exacerbate the situation and observes its obligations for the implementation of the Geneva accords. This is a confident foundation for the restoration of durable peace.

Mujahidin Continue Military Operations

Active on Salang Highway

BK1409022788 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] According to reports, the mujahidin have intensified their operations in the northern provinces in Afghanistan and have occupied many towns along the strategic Salang Highway.

The highway leads to the Soviet border from north of Kabul and remains intermittently closed following the occupation of three towns by mujahidin north of the capital. The mujahidin also control the surveillance post on the Takht bridge near the Qandahar airport.

There are reports of fierce fighting between mujahidin and Kabul regime troops in Paktia, Parvan, and Konduz Provinces.

The mujahidin continue to surround Herat city. Latest reports say only a limited number of Kabul regime troops remain in the city and most of the troops have left for Qandahar.

'Setbacks' for Kabul Noted

BK1409164288 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, the political and military situation in Qandahar, Kabul, Helmand, and Oruzgan is reported to be fast worsening and the communist regime in Kabul has been facing setbacks continuously in these provinces.

Diplomatic sources say, in view of the situation in these areas in recent weeks, the prospects of Najibullah regime are apparently very weak. They say mujahidin have already captured the second largest city of Helmand Province, (Durushk), which lies on the strategic Qandahar-Herat highway.

These sources speak of mujahidin having gained full control over adjoining Oruzgan Province. The provincial capital of Herat has been under siege since early summer and according to fresh reports, only a limited number of Kabul regime's troops are left there.

In Qandahar Province, mujahidin pressure on the city of Qandahar as well as the airports is also increasing and its fall seems to be imminent.

In an operation in Samangan Province mujahidin are reported to have captured an armored garrison at Darra-i-Suf. In Konarha Province mujahidin frustrated an attempt by Kabul regime's troops to retake the liberated valley of Nuristan.

2 Areas in Qandahar Captured

BK1509023988 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] According to a report, the mujahidin in Afghanistan during the last 2 days have captured Takhteh Pol and (Darabi) in the Spin Buldak-Qandahar region.

Takhteh Pol, situated 22 km away from the provincial capital, is the last town before Qandahar. The mujahidin captured the town 4 days after they captured Spin Buldak which was the last position of the Kabul regime forces to protect Qandahar.

According to reliable sources, with the seizure of Takhteh Pol, it has become easy for the mujahidin to launch rocket attacks on the Qandahar airport. The mujahidin maintained their control on Spin Buldak until Wednesday [14 September] despite heavy bombing by the Kabul Air Force planes. Some 200 to 500 people were killed due to bombing late Sunday night.

Earth Tremor Shakes Kabul City 14 Sep

LD1409194288 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] The Seismology Institute of the Academy of Science of the Republic of Afghanistan reports that at 0944 hours 47.5 seconds GMT today, corresponding to 1414 hours 47.5 seconds local time, an earth tremor shook the city of Kabul.

The epicenter of the tremor was in the northwest area and its range covered 2.5 km. Its severity was estimated at 3.6 degrees.

India

Government Expresses Hope for Democracy in Burma

BK1109035288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] India has expressed the hope that the people of Burma will be able to establish a democratic government in the country. In a statement issued in New Delhi last night, an official spokesman said the need of the hour is unity and consensus among democratic forces for a peaceful and orderly transition. He said the aspirations of the Burmese people are fully in accordance with India's firm commitment to democracy.

The spokesman also referred to the traditional friendship between the two countries and close cooperation in bilateral and international matters.

Reportage on Continuing Violence in Punjab

5 'Terrorists' Killed

BK1209164488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] In Punjab, five hardcore terrorists have been killed in two separate encounters since last night. The security forces have also arrested eight terrorists in Amritsar District.

According to an official spokesman, two terrorists were killed in an encounter with the security forces in the Mand area of Kapurthala District early this morning. A large quantity of arms and ammunition, including two rocket launchers and four rockets, were recovered from them. Also, terrorists gunned down seven persons, including a police constable, last night.

Two persons were shot dead in Ferozepur District, two in Gurdaspur District, and a police constable and a person in Amritsar District. In Ludhiana District, terrorists killed one person.

Police on 'Maximum Alert'

BK1409163288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] In Punjab, the police and the security forces have been put on the maximum alert in view of yesterday's shootout by terrorists in Sirhind Town of Patiala District.

The director general of police, Mr K.P.S.Gill, told AIR Chandigarh correspondent this evening that raids on the suspected hideouts of terrorists are being conducted all over the state. He said in the combing operations launched immediately after the Sirhind incident, five suspected terrorists were detained.

The governor, Mr S.S. Ray, visited the scene of the incident today and expressed his sympathies to the bereaved families. It may be recalled that 16 persons were killed and 20 injured in indiscriminate firing by terrorists in Sirhind Town yesterday evening.

A CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] patrol party immediately reached the spot and chased the terrorists who left behind the scooter and managed to escape.

Meanwhile, the Faridkot police have arrested four terrorists since last night and recovered arms and ammunition. Elsewhere in the state, terrorists shot dead two persons and seriously injured another in two separate incidents in Hoshiarpur and Amritsar districts last night.

2 'Hard-Core Terrorists' Killed

BK1509033288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] In Punjab, two hard-core terrorists were killed in separate encounters last night. According to the Punjab police chief, Mr K.P.S. Gill, a dreaded terrorist, Surinder Singh alias Chidda, was killed in an encounter with security forces near village Mudaki in Ferozepore District.

A Chinese assault rifle and some ammunition were recovered from him. He was involved in a number of terrorist killings, including that of an assistant subinspector of police.

Another hard-core terrorist, Bhupinder Singh alias Bhura, was killed in an encounter near village Ahluwal in Jullundur District. A Chinese-made revolver and some ammunition were recovered.

In Batala District, terrorists shot dead a farmer in village Bhai Bhagatan.

Iran

Musavi Thanks Departing Ministers for Service

LD1409141588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Today, the cabinet convened for its first meeting since the vote of confidence from the Islamic Consultative Assembly. In this meeting Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi congratulated those ministers who obtained a vote of confidence from the Majlis, as well as the hope that the new cabinet may begin to tackle fundamental tasks which include that of reconstruction and renovation and putting in order the economic situation in the country, with a positive and strong spirit.

The prime minister thanked Messrs Zali, Rafiqdust, and Akrami, and said: Our people, and especially those who are in charge of the administrative affairs of the country, are well aware of the large volume and pressure of work faced by the ministers and others in charge of running the country. They know it is vital to serve in the trenches in service to the Islamic Republic of Iran in order to benefit from the investments of the revolution.

Also at today's cabinet meeting, the cost of reconstruction of the war-stricken areas was submitted to the cabinet by the deputy prime minister for executive affairs and the supervisor for the reconstruction headquarters of the state, and it was decided that in accordance with Imam Khomeyni's view, the Council for Ascertaining What is Best, comprising the heads of the three powers and the prime minister, should be informed of the main points of the discussions for the purposes of arriving at decisions.

In this meeting Mr Farhadi, minister of culture and higher education, announced that the names of 70,000 of those who have been accepted by universities throughout the country this year as well as those accepted by higher educational institutes will be published by the mass media at the end of September. He added that 6,000 more students will be accepted this year compared with last year on a countrywide level.

In today's cabinet meeting, the governor of the Central Bank displayed a sample of the new 1,000 rials note which has the picture of Martyr Fahmideh, the young man who threw himself under the enemy's tank with explosives. He announced that this note will go into circulation during the holy defense week.

Majlis Debates Cabinet Appointments

LD1109121888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] In its open session this morning, the Majlis began a debate on the vote of confidence for the cabinet. Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi began by delivering a speech and noting the present situation in the country.

He pointed out the belief [words indistinct] and presence by the public and also the lofty and wise guidance of the imam of the ummah calling the above the sole sources of power.

Continuing with his speech, the prime minister urged adherence to the fundamental principles of the revolution and said: It is a pity that in an atmosphere filled with the scent of the blood of the lofty revolutionary martyrs, the 10 years of martydom-seeking and selfless efforts by our chosen nation are being explicitly criticized as 10 years of a hostile approach to issues. Further, it is being suggested that the time has now come for a return to wisdom-seeking by the revolution.

Noting the guidance by the imam of the ummah as the second secret of powerful presence he said: The comments by the imam of the ummah have never meant that we should forget our duties in keeping the interests of the country aloft or that we should call as religiously incorrect any presence in the political arena. The prime minister pointed out: If we do not wish to break our backs under the burden of hardship and if we wish to stand proud in the presence of the united infidel-stricken order of the world then we must strengthen our order.

Musavi went on to note that the Majlis has the fundamental role of the order and added: The ummah views you Majlis deputies as the core of national virtues. The government too, relying on your votes of confidence will accept the duty of conducting the executive affairs of the country.

Concluding his speech, the prime minister pointed out that the right to decide on ministers belongs to the Majlis deputies. The cabinet that is to receive your votes of confidence will be reintroduced to the Majlis in the coming year and consequently, those ministers not receiving your votes of confidence may not be replaced. Even if a replacment is found, the ministers new to their posts will not be able to conduct approporiate ventures. The mere task of choosing colleagues, being the obvious right of all ministers, will take a considerable time in this crucial period of reconstruction.

Following the prime minister's speech, a number of deputies supported or objected to the ministers. The supporting deputies defended the performance of the cabinet and the government pointing out their wish to reappoint the cabinet while praising their efforts under war conditions in the country. The objecting deputies criticized a number of ministers for various reasons, particularly regarding mismanagement and ministry shortcomings, insisting on the need for fundamental changes in the ministries. They requested that the prime minister should pay more attention to the above points.

The session went into a recess following the speeches by the prime minister and the deputies. The debate will continue in the open Majlis session this afternoon.

Commentary Views Post-War Role of Majlis

NC0509110088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 5 Sep 88

[Commentary by the Central News Unit's research group]

[Text] In the name of God. The Majlis resumed work yesterday after its summer recess and prepared itself for serious and fundamental work in confronting the country's difficulties and problems, as it has done in the past.

The Majlis will review matters and pass legislation at a time when the country's situation points in a new direction. It is resuming its activities when special conditions have been created in the country with Iran's acceptance of Resolution No 598.

What has emerged in society since the acceptance of the resolution and the commencement of the peace talks—which have attracted public attention and are being widely discussed in the media—is the country's economic development and reconstruction. In their speeches and interviews the country's officials and leaders have discussed the country's reconstruction and expressed various views and outlooks.

By virtue of the duties vested in them by the Republic and by virtue of the responsibility placed on their shoulders by the Constitution, each and every Majlis deputy has a grave responsibility. On the basis of the Constitution, each one of them has the right to express views on all domestic and foreign issues and each one can introduce laws on all issues within the framework of the Constitution. This comes at a time when discussions on way to economically develop and reconstruct the country under the present conditions are among the most important duties of the Majlis, discussions that are extremely sensitive.

The Majlis deputies are very well aware that the country's economic and political activities are compiled in the Majlis, and that the least bit of inattentiveness to the country's various problems and to the remarks by the jurisconsult and the leader of the revolution can have irreparable consequences. The Majlis deputies of the third session enjoy special conditions that make it different from former sessions. The deputies of the third Majlis undoubtedly believe that the least bit of inattentiveness to the process of the country's affairs will throw the revolution off its true path and, as a result, all the revolution's values will be forgotten.

The Majlis has an important duty in view of the country's current situation and its need for reconstruction and putting forth plans for economic development—which are among the most important duties of the Majlis—and in view of the fact that the Majlis is the manifestation of the nation's wants and the most important decision-making circle in the country.

Since the Majlis deputies express the nation's griefs and sorrows and are acquainted with the people's problems and difficulties, they should strive more and work day and night in order to fulfill the nation's wants and to approve plans that reflect the people's itnerests. The idea of supporting the deprived and the oppressed is not sufficient on its own, and a principled and correct movement should begin for the people's rule over the country's affairs. A comprehensive and complete program is necessary to achieve this end.

If the Majlis and its honorable deputies see that they lack the ability to study the plans and bills presented by the government to the Majlis, it will be advisable for them to consult with and ask for the views of clear-sighted people and take advantage of the knowledge and experience of others on the country's vital issues.

The Majlis should be careful to ascertain whether plans for the country's economic development and reconstruction call for new laws or whether past plans can help to solve problems and if necessary, new laws should be compiled. In approving new laws, the deputies should consider the principles of the revolution and take the Constitution to be the best criterion for their decisions. The general principles of the country's economic policy have been stated in this law and paying careful attention to the Constitution and implementing it will ensure the revolution's health and prevent its deviation.

One of the duties of the Majlis is to adopt a policy to prevent foreign economic domination over the country's economy. Now each move by the government and by the executive system in reconstruction depends on the approval of the Majlis. The sensitivity of the Majlis on how bills are approved and new laws introduced, as well as its speed, will neutralize any type of unwise action that may lead to foreign domination.

Iran's martyr-nurturing ummah has tolerated 8 years of unequal war with world arrogance. It has suffered the hardships and difficulties of this war because it wants the rule of Islam and the implementation of its laws. This is the desire of the Islamic ummah and the Majlis shoulders the heaviest share of the responsibility in fulfilling this desire.

Navy To Carry Out Minesweeping Operations

LD1509121788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] Captain [as heard] Malekzadegan, commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy, announced: Following Iran's formal acceptance of Resolution No 598 the Iranian Navy, in accordance with the order issued by the staff of the Armed Forces commander in chief, has decided to carry out minesweeping operations in international waters in the Persian Gulf region in order to ensure the safety of shipping lanes.

Referring to the work carried out in connection with minesweeping in the territorial waters along the access routes which lead to our ports in the region, he said: Iran's Navy, by employing all its capabilities, will carry out minesweeping operations in international waters of the Persian Gulf. As of 22 September, in conjunction with the beginning of Holy Defense Week, minesweeping will be carried out in stages in all international waters.

While stressing that Iran believes in cooperation in every regional action, the Navy commander said: In order to carry out this task, the cooperation of the Persian Gulf littoral states would be welcomed.

Departure of 'Vincennes' From Gulf Noted

NC1309070088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] U.S. Defense Department sources stated yesterday that the warship "Vincennes" has left the Persian Gulf and is en route to its base in the United States. According to REUTER, these sources, who did not want to be named, stated that with the departure of the "Vincennes" for San Diego 18 warships remain in the Persian Gulf and 9 in the northern Arabian Sea. The "Vincennes" intentionally attacked and downed an Airbus of the Islamic Republic of Iran with a missile. In this unfortunate occurrence, the 290 passengers of the Airbus were martyred.

Commentary on Lebanese Presidential Elections

NC1509095688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit's research group: "Will a Lebanese President Be Elected?"]

[Text] The kidnapping of Lebanon's defense minister and the visit by the U.S. assistant secretary of state have sparked off new speculation on the current stalemate in the Lebanese presidential elections. The Shi'ite defense minister of Lebanon, who is at the same time one of the southern Lebanese deputies in parliament, was kidnapped 2 days ago in the eastern sector of Beirut and was detained by armed men for a few hours. Immediately after this, the Lebanese Army, which has divided the eastern sector between itself and the rightist Christian forces in Lebanon, took new steps that led to powerful clashes between the soldiers and the Christian militia.

Even though 'Adil 'Usayran was released, politicians in Lebanon and Damascus got a message from Samir Ja'ja', commander of the Lebanese rightist forces, a very simple message, but repetitive: If any development or reconciliation is to take place in Lebanon, the faction of Samir Ja'ja' must not be overlooked or forgotten.

The possibility of a development or reconciliation increased when Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, set Thursday, 22 September, as the day for the parliamentary session that will choose the new president. This was immediately opposed by the Lebanese Forces, the same rightist Christian militia under the command of Samir Ja'ja.

The Lebanese Chamber of Deputies had planned to meet on 18 August. However, because the Lebanese Forces disapproved of the election of Sulayman Franjiyah as president, they prevented a quorum by kidnapping several deputies and terrorizing others. Thus, the elections were postponed. Observers believe this postponement reflected nothing other than the imposed views of the United States and Israel.

Since then two important incidents have taken place. First, Salim al-Huss, acting prime minister of Lebanon, withdrew his resignation in order to prevent the formation of a new cabinet by Al-Jumayyil. However, Al-Jumayyil did not accept this withdrawal. He thereby increased speculation that, if a new president is not chosen by the deadline, 23 September, and he continues to remain in office, he will choose a new prime minister to replace Salim al-Huss.

Obviously if this happens, Al-Jumayyil's opponents, all of whom agree with Syria's policy, will continue to regard Salim al-Huss as prime minister and refuse to recognize a new one. This will mean that Lebanon's divided situation will become more official and we will see a country with two governments and dozens of sources of power.

Under such conditions, Richard Murphy, assistant U.S. secretary of state, arrived in Damascus and met with Hafiz al-Asad and other Syrian officials. Many Lebanese newspapers consider this visit to be the outcome of a prior agreement between the United States and Syria to influence developments and realize reconciliation in Lebanon.

If this is the case, it is highly probable that Sulayman Franjiyah will withdraw his candidacy because the Americans do not consider him a suitable alternative for creating harmony among all the factions in Lebanon. Therefore, the main topic of discussion in Murphy's talks with Damascus officials is to reach an agreement on a common candidate for the Lebanese presidential elections.

The other important incident that has taken place since the last session of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies is the announcement of the candidacy of a certain Raymond Iddih. Iddih, a deputy of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, has had his eye on the Presidency since 1970. At the top of his political program is the withdrawal of Israel from the south of Lebanon. However, this does not please the other faction, that is, the opponents of the policies of the United States and Israel, because he stated that his next objective would be the withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon.

Even though Raymond Iddih is a combative personality on the Lebanonese political scene and even though he has been living in Paris for years, his chances of being president are poor because he does not have international support nor support within Lebanon from a militia group, the main actors on the scene.

That is, unless new developments take place at the last moment. However, if the situation does not change; if the United States and Syria do not reach an agreement, and an agreed upon president does not win; and if Lebanon, a country where national and popular determination of its destiny has proven to have no effect, and is not divided, Lebanon will witness a variety of poweful clashes aimed at upsetting the existing equilibrium.

Montazeri Presents Donated Funds to Navy Chief

LD1309133188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] The commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy, accompanied by the imam's representative in that force, met Ayatollah Montazeri yesterday. The Central News Unit reports that in this meeting the deputy leader presented the commander of the Navy with a sum of 10 million rials, donations from the people to the Islamic fighters. This sum is to be used for the Navy's expenses.

Khamene'i, Envoy to Angola, Zimbabwe Confer

LD1209082888 Tehran IRNA in English 0730 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 12 IRNA—Iran's ambassador to Harare Farhad Shahabi-Sirjani who is also accredited ambassador to Angola and Botswana met with Presient 'Ali Khamene'i here Sunday and reported on Tehran's cooperation with these countries. He said that President Robert Mugabe has offered to help implement the UN Resolution 598 on the Iraq-Iran war.

Khamene'i appreciated Mugabe's good will and described him as an outstanding Third World leader.

In another meeting the same day the president received secretary general of the three-member Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO), Salari who briefed Khamene'i on the economic and cultural cooperation between the three countries.

President Khamene'i said the organisation is a good element for promoting cooperation between Muslim states. He expressed hope that as a result of ECO's efforts and its growing membership the organizations will further succeed in its goods.

UN Seeks Iraq Visit To Investigate Charges

NC1409073188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Report by unidentified Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran correspondent from London; date not given—recorded]

[Text] UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar asked Iraq last night to allow a UN fact-finding delegation to visit Iraq in order to investigate reports that Iraq is using chemical weapons against the northern Iraqi Kurds. A UN spokesman announced that the UN secretary general has exerted pressure on Baghdad, through 10 other countries, to accept this request.

Two days ago, the FRG, Japanese, British, and U.S. envoys to the United Nations asked the UN secretary general to send a delegation to Iraq in order to investigate the claims. Iraqi authorities, who have issued repeated denials and asked for an international inquiry, now view such inquiries to be interference in Iraq's internal affairs.

On the other hand, some U.S. congressmen have requested that an emergency session of the UN Security Council be convened to investigate the situation in northern Iraq. This request came as George Shultz, the U.S. secretary of state, testified at a Senate session that the reports of Iraqi use of chemical and toxic weapons against the Kurds in northern Iraq are true.

UN Inquiry Into Iraq's Use of Toxic Gas Urged

NC1409094188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Commentary by the Central News Unit's research group]

[Text] Yesterday, a Turkish Government official stated that not one Kurdish refugee has returned to Iraq following the Iraqi regime's announcement of amnesty. The Iraqi information minister had claimed that nearly 11,000 Kurdish refugees had returned from Turkey and Iran since the amnesty was declared.

This is not the first time the Iraqi regime has voiced false and fabricated allegations in order to deceive international public opinion. Similarly, in the face of the mounting wave of intense propaganda by some circles against Iraq, the Iraqi information minister said his country does not attach any importance to such propaganda. Therefore, all the allegations and statements of international condemnation over the past few weeks are being ignored.

The Iraqi regime is overtly stating that, in fact, it intends to continue its massacre and crimes in northern Iraq and is not willing to halt this inhuman massacre and genocide. In view of these measures, and its complete indifference to international laws and its rejecting all UN conventions based on the condemnation of all such massacres in all parts of the world, the Iraqi regime has brazenly declared it has forbidden all kinds of assistance by the International Red Cross Committee to the Kurds.

Despite widespread protest demonstrations in European countries, including Sweden and Great Britain, and the massive protests of the past few days, the silence of some governments may have been instrumental in the increase in the maniacal cruelty and mercilessness of the Baghdad rulers. This has given the Ba'thist regime a free hand to annihilate innocent and tyrannized people. The 8-years-long Iran-Iraq war and the silence of the international community concerning the war crimes of the Ba'thist forces has resulted in their repetition in the mountainous, northern areas of Iraq. This will destroy their own nation.

The silence of some countries during the 8 years of war against the Iranian nation which they adopted on the pretext of neutrality, continues today with regard to the Iraqi Kurds. Their pretext this time is the strategic interest in Iraq and the lack of documented evidence of the crimes committed. With every day that the international community remains silent, the Iraqi regime gains more opportunities to increase its inhuman massacre. Therefore, it is imperative that definite and categorical measures should be adopted by all communities throughout the world before it is too late.

On the other hand, it is necessary that the United Nations initiate an international inquiry within the framework of UN Resolution No 620 because, according to the British Foreign Office spokesman, the volume of evidence concerning Iraq's use of chemical weapons against the Kurds has reached a credible level. Some observers have expressed the opinion that the UN Security Council's silence on the Kurds could stem from a reluctance by that body to take a stand. They also believe that peace efforts between Iran and Iraq may be further deadlocked.

An inquiry into the Iraqi Ba'thist regime's genocide in Kurdistan is a Security Council matter and beyond the pale of the Geneva talks. It is therefore the obligation of the UN Security Council to initiate its investigation in a realistic and swift manner and to prevent the further sacrifice of Iraqi Kurds to regional or international policies.

According to experts on international affairs, Security Council Resolution No 620 on the use of chemical weapons has been rendered ineffective by Iraq's repeated use of chemical weapons. This inertia in the face of the extensive use of chemical weapons has now reached the point where some Third World countries are also attempting to obtain chemical weapons.

There are no words to describe the tragic catastrophe which claimed thousands of victims in northern Iraq early this month. One day, the human conscience will

take its revenge on those without conscience, and the spirits of thousands of innocents who were dragged in the blood and the dust will be satisfied.

Kurdish Party Statement on Iraqi Use of Toxins
LD1409152788 Tehran IRNA in English 1456 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] London, Sept. 14, IRNA—The visit by a U.N. probe team to Iraq to evidence the Baghdad regime's chemical slaughter of Kurdish civilians will prove to be an acid test for Saddam Husayn but his refusal for such a mission would be tantamount to his guilt, says Iraq's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP).

In a released statement to IRNA Wednesday, the KDP welcomed moves in New York to send a U.N. enquiry into the continuing use of chemical weapons deployed by the Iraqi regime as part of its war of genocide against the Kurdish people.

"Information from inside confirm that the Iraqi authorities are labouring to conceal and remove as much evidence as possible on the ground, therefore the respected governments who initiated this move at the U.N. must move quickly to press Iraq to offer immediate access," it said.

First indications from New York suggest that Iraq was trying to hide its guilt by resisting or at least trying to delay receiving a research mission that has been requested by Britain and nine other U.N. member states.

In Baghdad one Iraqi official was also quoted saying that his country would not admit the team, and in London Iraqi Ambassador Dr Muhammad al-Mashat retorted angrily to the request.

He maintained that it was an "internal Iraqi affair" with its own Kurdish minority population and under a "matter of principle" no foreign investigators would be allowed to check what was happening.

U.N. probe teams have repeatedly evidenced Iraq's use of chemical weapons against Iran since 1984 but are yet to categorically condemn the regime let alone stop their use of such weapons outlawed for over 60 years and observers ask what if anything further would prove against an incorrigible ruler.

Reports from the U.N. suggest that in the event of an expected Iraqi refusal a mission would be sent to the Turkish border to verify the atrocities and the KDP in its statement called upon the Turkish authorities to reveal all the information it has received.

The mission should it be allowed into Iraq would be "acid test" for the Baghdad regime and its refusal would only be "tantamount to an admission of guilt," it said.

The KDP said that it had gained further proof of Iraq's continuing use of chemical weapons at the weekend when guerrilla forces captured gas masks and protective clothing from 140 Iraqi soldiers it had killed in the Al-'Amadiyah district near the Turkish border.

An Iraqi commander was recognised amongst the dead and the Kurds said that the chemical weapons suits worn by the Iraqi troops was new evidence that poison gases were still be used.

Kurdish Leader Appeals to UN on Iraqi 'Genocide'
LD1409212188 Tehran IRNA in English 1659 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 14, IRNA—An Iraqi Kurdish leader appealed to the U.N. secretary general here today drawing his attention to the genocide of Kurds at the hands of Baghdad's Ba'thist regime.

Saddam Huseyn is out to exterminate the Kurdish population in Iraq by deploying the internationally-banned chemical weapons, said Muhammad Khalid Barzani [name as received], the leader of Iraq's Kurdish Hizballah.

Barzani's message to Javier Perez de Cuellar enumerated the long list of Ba'thist atrocities against the Iraqi people, including the March 18 chemical carnage at Halabjah, which left over 5,000 Kurds martyred and 7,000 others injured.

He said, following the August 20 ceasefire in its war against Iran, the Baghdad regime let loose its chemical fury on northern Iraq, killing and wounding thousands of Kurds including women and children, and driving thousands others to neighbouring countries.

Barzani sent similar letters to the U.N. High Commission for Human Rights, the Security Council and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), urging immediate action against the Baghdad regime. He also appealed to world bodies to rush medical and other aid to the persecuted Iraqi Kurds.

Recently, the world has been witnessing a new-found "concern" in international circles against Baghdad's chemical attacks in northern Iraq, which have driven over 150,000 Kurds into Turkey and other 16,500 into Islamic Iran.

It is a matter of regret that no voice was raised despite concrete evidence when the Iraqi regime used these lethal weapons at will in the imposed war against Iran, even bombarding border towns and villages.

UN Group Calls 23 Aug Iraqi Attack 'Illegal'

LD1409183388 Tehran IRNA in English 1819 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept 14, IRNA—Commander of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) informed the Iranian liaison officer on measures taken on Iraqi violation of ceasefire and the capture of 752 Iranian soldiers.

Major General Slavko Jovic in his letter said UNIIMOG could not prevent the Iraqi troops from their violation despite all efforts it made, which he said even put one of the U.N. forces in jeopardy.

He said during the illegal Iraqi attack on 23 August, three days after the ceasefire went into effect, the U.N. forces employed all within their power to resolve the issue, but could not halt the Iraqi troops. Iraqi officials have practically turned down UNIIMOG request for returning the Iranian soldiers, he added.

Iran's concern over the issue was termed "legitimate" by the commander who also praised Iranian officials for their extreme self-restraint in the face of Iraq's provocative move.

Jovic assured the Iranian officer that UNIIMOG will try all it can do to procure the release of the 752 Iranian soldiers, adding that the issue has also been reported to the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Iraq Reportedly Executes 17 Returned Kurds

LD1409192188 Tehran IRNA in English 1713 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Orumiyeh, West Azarbayjan Prov., Sept. 14. IRNA—The Iraqi regime has executed 17 Kurdish refugees who had returned from Turkey following the so-called amnesty declared by the Baghdad ruler.

Fresh groups of persecuted Iraqi Kurds arriving in Iran revealed that the unfortunate refugees were stopped and executed by Iraqi troops on Khanqah [name as received] road in Diyanah region, Irbil Province over the past few days.

Thousands of people in Kurdish populated northern Iraq were forced to leave their hometowns and take refuge in Iran and Turkey as a result of indiscriminate Iraqi attacks which according to Kurdish sources are still going on.

Egyptian 'Mercenaries' Captured in 1983 Freed

LD1409162488 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 14, IRNA—Sixteen Egyptian mercenaries, who were detained by coast guards for violating Iran's territorial waters in 1983, were released this afternoon and handed over to the Italian Embassy which takes care of Egypt's interests in the Islamic Republic. The Egyptians will leave here for Rome on board an Italian plane, from where they will catch a connecting flight to Cairo.

Foreign Ministry Statement

NC1509070688 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] In continuation of the Islamic Republic of Iran's humanitarian acts of releasing prisoners, 16 Egyptian mercenaries, who had been captured by the forces of Islam during the imposed war on charges of entering the Islamic Republic's territorial waters illegally, were released this evening and handed over by officials of our Foreign Ministry to the Italian ambassador, who is taking care of Egypt's interests.

Commenting on this, our Foreign Ministry spokesman stressed that the release of this group does not in the least mean that the Egyptian regime's submissive and negative stands on the problems of Palestine and the imposed war are being neglected. It is purely an act with humanitarian and Islamic objectives. He added that these persons were detained and questioned in Mordad 1362 [month beginning 23 July 1983] for violating the Islamic Republic's territorial waters in the Persian Gulf.

However, despite their offense and in view of the Islamic Republic's policy on preserving and expanding peace and stability in the region, a decision was made to release them unilaterally and return them to their families in Egypt. The group left Mehrabad Airport on an Italian plane and will go to Cairo via Rome.

Disabled Iraqi POW's Released to Red Cross

LD1209225588 Tehran IRNA in English 1518 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 12 IRNA—Seventy-two Iraqi POWS, mostly sick or disabled, were unilaterally released by Iran and delivered to representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). They were flown to Baghdad aboard a chartered jet.

The Islamic Republic of Iran in line with its humanitarian goals has so far released 775 Iraqi POWS in 10 batches.

A military official expressed hope here today that the Iranian measure would facilitate the release of all POWS on the basis of the United Nations Resolution 598.

Further on Geneva Talks on UN Resolution

Velayati Returns, Comments

NC1509053888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by an unidentified Central News Unit correspondent at Mehrabad Airport in Tehran "early this morning";—recorded]

[Correspondent] Our foreign minister, Mr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who headed a delegation to Geneva to hold talks on UN Resolution No 598, has returned to Tehran.

A number of officials welcomed Mr Velayati at Mehrabad Airport. In an interview, he commented on the way in which the talks on Resolution No 598 are progressing in Geneva. He described one of the results of these talks as the clarification for world opinion of Iraq's negative positions. He added:

[Velayati] During these talks, the Iraqis, as in the past, continued to propound various preconditions and pretexts. On the other hand, the Islamic Republic of Iran showed that it is not prepared, in any way, to accept any precondition outside the framework of Resolution No 598 and the secretary general's implementation plan. The Islamic Republic did not allow Iraq to mar valid international pacts, particularly the 1975 pact. These two special features of the Iraqi and Iranian positions gradually became clear to the world.

As a result, you can now see the impact of Iraq's negative position and Iran's positive position on the world mass media. The ultimate outcome of these talks was that the secretary general's plan for the third round of our talks in New York was further clarified, which was (?stated) in a letter from Eliasson, the secretary general's special representative, and which was read at the third and fourth official direct talks. Therefore, the first article of the resolution must actually be completed and the timetable for the remaining articles of the resolution be set. This is an issue that the two sides will have to (?accept); otherwise, they will confront the secretary general, who enjoys the support of the Security Council.

In view of the clear and sincere positions of the Islamic Republic of Iran, everyone knows that it is Iraq that obstructed, in any way possible and on any pretext, the various aspects of the issue both in form and in content. For example, Iraq's most recent position was that it would not come to New York. Iraq's minister of state for foreign affairs stated this in an interview and Iraq's foreign minister said this at the official meeting.

However, after 2 or 3 days, and under political and international pressure, they retreated from this position, as they had retreated from their position on the direct talks, which they propounded in New York as a precondition preceding the cease-fire. We believe that one of the positive results of such a position by Iraq in the world is that the international community now realizes what kind of regime the Islamic Republic has had to deal with over the past 8 years.

[Correspondent] Now that the talks are to be continued in New York, how does Your Excellency assess the talks in New York.

[Velayati] In view of the 8 years of war and conflict between Iran and Iraq, as well as the Iraqi regime's capricious character, the nature of the talks will be [word indistinct] and the process will be slow. However, each time that talks are held and another round of talks is completed, we are closer to our objectives. We also hope that with the support which the secretary general will receive from the 15 members of the Security Council, and in light of the secretary general's decision to implement the resolution, we will be able to take positive steps forward, God willing.

IRNA Views Geneva Talks

LD1109192788 Tehran IRNA in English 1836 GMT 11 Sep 88

["New York 'Not Suitable' Venue for Iraq"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Geneva, Sept. 11, IRNA—When finally the tall figure of the U.N. mediator in the Iran-Iraq conflict Jan Eliasson emerged from the conference hall of "Palais des Nations" (where the peace talks are held) to meet the press late Saturday night after leading a third plenary session between the two foreign ministers, he looked very tired and at the same time dejected for having almost nothing to tell scores of reproters anxiously waiting for hours on the ground floor. "Consultations are proceeding" was the only phrase he uttered before briskly walking away, saying good night, without answering any questions.

Since Thursday Aug. 2 [as received] when the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar appointed the Swedish diplomat to represent him in the Iran-Iraq peace talks, it was the first time for Eliasson to see 'Ali Akbar Velayati of Iran and Tariq 'Aziz of Iraq sitting face-to-face for a third plenary session. He was reportedly "gratified" over arranging this rather elusive meeting. The two ministers had not met directly since Aug. 26, that is a day after the peace negotiations started here at the U.N. European Headquarters under the good offices of Perez de Cuellar to turn the Aug. 20 ceasefire into a lasting peace for the benefit of the whole region and the world at large.

The talks, however, were soon stalled over certain "irrelevant and untimely" preconditions raised by the Iraqi side. Clearing of the Arvand River and access to free navigation in the Persian Gulf were two conditions Baghdad wanted to be met before the progress of the peace talks.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, in turn, made it clear that Iraq's requests were outside the framework of the Security Council Resolution 598 which the two sides have officially accepted and pledged its immediate implementation. But as a show of good-will, Iran's foreign minister has declared that the matters could perhaps be taken into consideration at a later stage and after troop withdrawals and exchange of prisoners.

Nonetheless, Iraq's continued persistence and its resort to the tactic of procrastination, completely blocked the progress of the Geneva talks and this was even admitted by the U.N. chief when he was in Paris earlier this week.

With this being the situation, speculations that the talks will be moved to New York where the U.N. chief is based, reached their peak on Saturday when it was announced that a third plenary session would be held in the evening in Geneva to be followed by a news conference by Jan Eliasson.

Earlier on Saturday and before the convening of the plenary session, Iraq's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'dun Hammadi explictly voiced his country's opposition to the idea of shifting the peace talks to New York.

With the circulation of this "not very unexpected" report in the morning on Saturday, predictions went on the rise that the plenary meeting in the evening would not be an easy one.

In other words, everyone has realized that Iraq had again resorted to just "another means of procrastination."

Eliasson had planned his news conference for the weekend because he was very hopeful and very confident that he would have the agreement on both sides to continue the negotiations in New York and under direct supervision of the secretary general and members of the Security Council.

Perhaps Mr. Eliasson did not yet know that one of the parties, that is Iraq, is basically against the implementation of the Security Council Resolution 598 and of course the execution of the U.N. chief's implementation plan. But the U.N. mediator is now probably convinced of the truth, particularly when the Iraqi side on Saturday impudently refused to accept a decision by the secretary general and the Security Council to continue the talks in New York.

Face-to-face talks between Velayati and 'Aziz, through the new U.N. mediator Eliasson, started at 6 p.m. Saturday. But after three hours of discussions, it was decided to have a "coffee break" as U.N. spokeswoman Therese Gastaut put it.

But when she later announced that the break had lasted for about 2 ½ hours, it became clear that it could not be a simple "refreshment break" but rather one for some necessary consultations with the secretary general to seek his advice on how to overcome Iraq's "new obstacle."

It is still unknown what Eliasson will be told by the U.N. chief in solving the problem but it is most probable the matter will be considered by the Security Council for an unanimous decision expected to be announced any time.

As much as it relates to Eliasson, the Swedish diplomat has tried his best over the past ten days he has been in charge, to bridge the gap between the two sides and to this end he has even proposed a "compromise formula" which again the Iraqis rejected.

Although it was not disclosed what Eliasson's initiative to break the stalemate was, but it was believed to be on the issue of shipping in the Persian Gulf.

The Swedish mediator had apparently succeeded in winning Iran's consent to forego its right in searching ships at the strategic gateway to the Persian Gulf but with Iraq's obstructionism again, the Iranian flexibility too was neglected.

Why Not New York?

Why is Iraq basically against New York as the next venue of the peace talks? The U.N. secretary general is in New York because as the chief of the international body, he has certain commitments which require him to be at his headquarters.

Definitely it would be difficult for the secretary general to leave his main headquarters and indulge in lengthy and delicate talks elsewhere which may drag on indefinitely.

Furthermore, members of the Security Council who have passed Resolution 598 are in close contact with Perez de Cuellar in New York making it more convenient for them to decide quickly on matters of particular significance.

In other words, in New York the secretary general and the Security Council will keep on a close eye on the pace of the peace talks between Iran and Iraq and will act as a "lever of pressure" against the party hindering the negotiations on illogical pretexts.

Iraq on the other hand, is believed to be attempting to undermine the role of the United Nations and its secretary general. In fact, Baghdad's open refusal to agree to the U.N. chief's decision to shift the talks to New York is a good proof of this claim.

This is while, the secretary general must have a free hand to enable him move the talks ahead. And it is also for this reason that the Islamic Republic has pledged full cooperation with Perez de Cuellar.

Tehran has openly declared that it will sit for "direct" or "indirect" negotiations wherever the secretary general decides regardless of its form and no matter how long these talks would take.

On the contrary, each day Baghdad is trying to create new obstacles against the accepted rules and regulations.

If the secretary general has to face difficulty on such a simple matter as the venue and timing of peace talks at this stage of the negotiations, what would be the case tomorrow when each and every article of Resolution 598 is to be precisely implemented?

It is true that in New York, Iraq will have lesser chances for killing time and continuing its present irrational policy. On one hand, Baghdad is suffering from its own wrong and illogical position-takings and on the other it has provoked worldwide hatred and wrath against its government over the heinous crimes it is committing against its own Kurdish population, including the use of outlawed chemical weapons.

Iraqi Deputy Premier's Remarks on 1913 Pact Noted
LD0309051688 Tehran IRNA in English 0501 GMT 3 Sep 88

["Ramadan Claims 1913 Agreement With Iran Is Still Valid"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Belgrade, September 3, IRNA—On the second and last day of an official visit to Yugoslavia, Iraqi First Deputy Premier Taha Yasin Ramadan met with Yugoslav President Raif Dizdarevic here Friday.

The president expressed Yugoslavia's readiness to develop the "broadest possible" political and economic cooperation with Iraq, to the interest of both countries.

Both sides concluded that relations between Yugoslavia and Iraq had stood the test of time and confirmed their vitality even under the most difficult wartime conditions. Both were convinced that post war reconstruction in Iraq would provide even better opportunities for stepping up economic cooperation.

Turning to the peace talks in Geneva, Dizdarevic said that the talks would not be easy, as the war had left serious consequences. What was needed, therefore, was patience and a firm intention of peace, he said.

Yugoslavia, he said, would continue to work on turning the present ceasefire into a lasting and honourable peace in the interest of both Iraq and Iran.

Premier Branko Mikulic, Vice Premier Janez Zemljaric and Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar also attended the talks, as did members of the Iraqi delegation, including its Trade Minister M. Salih.

Iraq rejects the 1975 agreement it signed with Iran, Iraqi First Deputy Premier Taha Yasin Ramadan told a press conference in Belgrade Friday evening. He claimed that the agreement had not superceded the earlier agreement signed between the two countries in 1913, and commented that a political solution on the basis of the 1913 treaty should be reached by the two countries.

He said he was "neither optimistic nor pessimistic" about the on-going peace talks between Iranian and Iraqi delegations in Geneva.

Ramadan also supported the idea of Egypt's return to the Arab League and resumption of diplomatic relations between Cairo and Arab states. He expressed hope that this question would be finally settled at the next Arab summit.

Asked whether Iraq might again volunteer to host a non-aligned summit meet, Ramadan said that Baghdad was not presently considering the idea.

He said relations between Yugoslavia and Iraq, which did not wane during eight years of war with Iran, will be even closer in the post-war period.

"My visit here is aimed precisely at finding new ways and means for developing our cooperation and relations, which have been excellent ever since the Iraqi revolution of 1968", Ramadan said, adding that he had found the same attitude among the Yugoslav leadership.

The press conference marked the close of Ramadan's two-day visit to Belgrade.

Volunteer Troops Dispatched to Fronts
LD1109195788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Popular volunteer forces are continuing to join the Islamic combatants already on the borders of the country. This afternoon a large number of mobilization forces from Shahrud, Semnan, Mayamey, Damghan, Garmsar, and the (Mahdi-Shahr) and Sorkheh Districts were dispatched to the southern and western borders.

Forces Leave for Western, Southern Borders
LD1209110088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Continuing the departure of fresh popular forces for the Islamic homeland's frontiers a large group of mobilization personnel from Kerman, Sirjan, Rafsanjan, Zarand, (Barfsir), Shahr-e Babak, Jiroft, (Tahnuch), Bam and Bafq left for the southern and western borders this morning in the special Muharram convoy.

Popular Volunteers Leave for Fronts
LD1409214288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] In continuation of departure of popular volunteer forces to the fronts of holy defense, today a large groups of volunteers left Shahr-e Kord, Borujen, (Kordegan), Farsan, Ardak, the tribal base of Chahar Mahal va Bakhtiari, Semnan, Shahrud, (Miami), (Damqan), Garmsar, and Mahmud Shah base. A number of technical volunteers from various areas of Shiraz also left for the western and southern fronts of the country to join the other warriors of Islam.

Syrian Ba'th Party Chief Meets With Mir Salim

LD1109130988 Tehran IRNA in English 1129 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 11, IRNA—Iran's high presidential adviser, Mustafa Mir Salim met with secretary general of Syrian Ba'th Party, 'Abdallah Ahmar in Pyongyang Saturday and discussed Tehran-Damascus ties and issues about U.N. Resolution 598.

During the meeting in which Syrian state minister for foreign affairs was also present, 'Abdallah Ahmar said that the Iraqi regime is trying to justify a war it has imposed on the Islamic Republic. He reminded that Saddam has no explanation to the Iraqi people why he started the war.

He said Saddam was trying to suppress the Kurdish population in Iraq and did not spare any inhuman act in this regard. He added Iraqi opposition is standing to the ruling government as a united whole.

'Abdallah also called for expansion of Tehran-Damascus economic and industrial ties.

In reply, Mir Salim said Iraq is killing time by setting forth illogical pre-conditions in order to evade the inescapable consequences of the resolution. This is while Iran is following up its activities based on three specific criteria that is the 1975 accord, U.N. Resolution 598 and the executive project of U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Mir Salim is currently in Pyongyang for the 40th independence anniversary of Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

'Preliminary' Delegation Leaves for PRC

LD1509092788 Tehran IRNA in English 0918 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 15, IRNA—An Iranian preliminary delegation headed by Iranian head of Tehran-Beijing technical and economic commission Ahmad Sharifi left for Beijing Wednesday morning [as recieved].

The Iranian delegation will make arrangements for holding of the commission's joint session in Beijing.

Deputy Prime Minister for executive affairs Hamid Mirzadeh will leave for China next week for evaluation of bilateral cooperation in economic. technical and and trade fields.

Parliamentary Delegation Departs for IPU Talks

LD1409093388 Tehran IRNA in English 0630 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 14, IRNA—A six-member Iranian parliamentary delegation left Tehran for Sofia, Bulgaria, Wednesday morning to attend the 80th conference of the Interparliamentary Union September 19-24.

The delegation includes Ahmad Azizi, Sa'id Raja'i Khorasani, 'Abbas 'Ali Amin Zanjani, 'Ali Movahedi Saveji, Mohammad Sa'id Taslimi and Reza Akrami [all names as received].

Items in the agenda of the conference are human rights and harmonization of national and international laws to prevent human rights abuses. The conference is also to discuss international political, social and economic issues.

The Iranian delegation is to put forward a proposal calling for collective effort by world parliaments to better protect air travel security. The proposal reflects Iran's concern about violations of air travel conventions such as witnessed by the downing of an Iran Air Airbus-300 over the Strait of Hormuz July 3 which killed all of her 290 passengers and crewmembers aboard.

The Iranian delegation is also to hold talks with Bulgarian officials on expansion of Tehran-Sofia ties.

FRG Envoy Hands Genscher Message to Larijani

LD1409110288 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 14, IRNA—Special envoy of the Foreign Ministry of the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) Reinhard Schlaginlweit presented a written message from German Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher to Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Europe and America Affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani here today.

Larijani and the German official expressed hope that Iran and the Federal Republic of Germany will broaden their mutual relations. German foreign minister is to visit Tehran in November.

GDR Heavy Machinery Minister Arrives for Talks

Meets Construction Jihad Official

LD1209225888 Tehran IRNA in English 1507 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 12, IRNA—Visiting Minister of Heavy Machinery and Equipment of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) Hans-Joachim Lauck conferred with Rasul Lahijanian in charge of the Construction Jihad Ministry here today.

Discussed in the meeting were mutual cooperation in the fields of electricity supply, road building, asphalt factories and fishing industry.

Meets With Mo'ayeri

LD1209230388 Tehran IRNA in English 1709 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 12, IRNA—Heavy Machinery and Equipment Minister of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) Hans Jochim Lauck, currently here on an official visit, met with Deputy Prime Minister for Political Affairs 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri Monday.

In the meeting, Lauck called for expansion of ties between his country and the Islamic Republic and for increase in the volume of mutual trade exchanges. He also announced GDR's readiness to cooperate with Iran in the industrial field.

In response, Mo'ayeri, saying there are ample grounds for the expansion of bilateral cooperation, noted since the Islamic Republic is entering its post war reconstruction era the two countries could further utilize each other's capabilities.

Mo'ayeri said the government and Majlis (Parliament) have under study nearly 200 reconstruction projects and GDR has a good chance of collaborating in some of them.

Commenting on the U.N-mediated Iran-Iraq peace talks in Geneva, Mo'ayeri said the Islamic Republic still sticks to its avowed principles and supports U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar's mediation efforts despite Baghdad's efforts to hamper enforcement of Security Council resolution 598.

Received by Oil Minister

LD1209230988 Tehran IRNA in English 1741 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 12, IRNA—Visiting minister of heavy machinery and equipment of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) held talks with Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh here Monday on the future oil relations between the two countries.

The two also agreed that an Iranian delegation would visit Berlin for talks on ways to expand mutual cooperation in the oil and petrochemical fields and for purchase of equipment needed for laying oil and gas pipelines.

Aqazadeh expressed hope the GDR Government would pave the way for expansion of bilateral economic relations in pace with the political ties between the two countries. The GDR minister of heavy machinery and equipment arrived here on September 11.

Discusses Cooperation With Shafe'i

LD1309190888 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT 13 Sep 88

¡Text] Tehran, Sept. 13, IRNA—The national day of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) was celebrated at the 14th Tehran International Fair Tuesday. GDR Minister of Heavy Machinery and Equipment Hans Joachim Lauck, Iranian Industries Minister Gholam Reza Shafe'i and a number of foreign guests were present at the ceremony.

Addressing the audience, Lauck described the annual Tehran fair as an "important event" in the Islamic Republic's struggle to attain economic independence and industrial self-sufficiency.

For this reason, Lauck said, the GDR Government has despatched a top level delegation to Tehran and is actively participating in the fair.

He said the expansion of economic ties between his country and the Islamic Republic over the past few years has served to give a boost to the volume of mutual trade exchanges, which he said now stands at dlrs 300 million a year.

In response, Shafe'i said the Islamic Republic is fully prepared to cooperate with GDR in diverse fields and will certainly allow friendly countries to contribute towards its post-war reconstruction projects. He said that Iran will make use of GDR's experiences in rebuilding its industries.

The industries minister referred to the third joint commission due to be held in Berlin in autumn and hoped for further cooperation between the two countries.

Confers With Mines Minister

LD1309193688 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 13, IRNA—Heavy Machinery and Equipment Minister of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) Hans Joachim Lauck met Mines and Metals Minister Mohammad Reza Ayatollahi here Tuesday.

In the meeting, Ayatollahi announced Iran's preparedness to export copper and chrome to E. Germany, in return for increase in the volume of mineral imports from GDR.

The two sides also stressed the necessity of completing the iron-processing project of Esfahan steel mills and purchase of spare parts needed for Esfahan and Ahvaz steel plants.

Industrial Agreement Signed

LD1409092388 Tehran IRNA in English 0552 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 14, IRNA—Minister of Heavy Machinery and Equipment of the German Democratic Republic Hans Joachim Lauck left Tehran Wednesday morning after signing a letter of understanding with Iran's minister of industries Gholam Reza Shafe'i for Iran-GDR industrial cooperation. The document expands an earlier Iran-GDR protocol for cooperation, and anticipates collaboration in steel mill, rolling, chemical and cement projects in Iran.

In Tehran Lauck visited the 14th Tehran International Trade Fair and talked with several Iranian officials on expansion of economic and trade relations between the two countries.

Algerian Economic Delegation Arrives 13 Sep

NC1309062688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that Faysal Boudraa, the Algerian heavy industry minister, arrived in Tehran at the head of a high-level economic and industrial delegation this morning, at the invitation of Behzad Nabavi, the minister of heavy industries. The members of the Algerian economic delegation will hold talks with our country's economic officials during their 3-day stay in Tehran and will sign a memorandum of understanding with Iran on economic issues. The Algerian heavy industry minister will also visit the 14th Tehran International Trade Fair.

Meets With Nabavi

LD1409092088 Tehran IRNA in English 1515 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 13, IRNA—Algerian Heavy Industry Minister Faysal Boudraa and his Iranian counterpart Behzad Nabavi exchanged views on Tehran-Algiers economic and industrial cooperation here today.

The two sides in the meeting also discussed the latest developments of a mutual protocol inked earlier by the two countries.

Meanwhile, visiting minister of heavy machinery and equipment of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) Hans-Joachim Lauck discussed Tehran-Berlin industrial and technical cooperation with Nabavi here on the same day.

Lauck stressed in the session that his country is ready to expand industrial cooperation particularly in the heavy industries area with Iran.

Received by Musavi

LD1409180988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] The Algerian minister of heavy industries met Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister, this afternoon and held talks. Mr Behzad Nabavi, minister of heavy industries was also present at the meeting.

Referring to the importance of Islamic countries knowing each other's capabilities, Mr Musavi said: today one of the problems of the Islamic countries is not being sufficiently informed of the other Muslims countries' economic, industrial, and technical capabilities. With better knowledge of their resources, the Islamic countries must become invulnerable for the colonial powers. We are happy that the two Muslim countries of Iran and Algeria are taking valuable steps on this path.

The prime minister explained: Visits by high-ranking experts and specialists between the two countries can draw a better picture of bilateral economic and technical cooperation. This can also be a forerunner of future progress.

The Algerian minister of heavy industries, who had visited the Tehran International Trade Fair and several industrial plants of our country, said: During my visit to Iranian industrial plants, I found diversified fields for joint cooperation and I hope to be able to give a more active form to the commercial and industrial relations of the two countries in view of the new economic powers of the Islamic Republic. He concluded by praising Iran's industrial achievements in recent years.

Visits International Trade Fair

NC1509090488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] Algeria's national day was marked yesterday in the presence of the Iranian and Algerian ministers of heavy industry at the Tehran International Trade Fair grounds.

The Algerian minister of heavy industries stated in a speech that Algeria is working for peace as well as for the further expansion of economic and political relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Referring to the increase in the two countries' economic relations and exchanges, he stated that Algeria experts are currently in Tehran to study all aspects of increasing purchases of goods from Iran.

Minister of Heavy Industries Mr Nabavi then spoke about bilateral relations and said: Various political and economic delegations from both countries have exchanged many visits so far. The result has been the signing of memoranda of understanding in the economic, industrial, agriculture, cultural, and educational fields.

He stated that the two countries' second joint committee session is to be held in Aban [month beginning 23 October] in Tehran. In conclusion, our minister of heavy industries pointed out that the two countries can cooperate widely in various fields. He expressed the hope that, with the second session of the joint committee, bilateral relations will expand even more than before.

The Swedish national day also was marked yesterday at the 14th Tehran International Trade Fair in the presence of the Swedish deputy minister of foreign trade and of our deputy minister of commerce. During this ceremony, the SWedish deputy minister of foreign trade praised the efforts by Iran toward economic planning following the acceptance of the cease-fire. He described the presence of Swedish industrial and commercial companies at the Tehran International Trade Fair as a sign of their interest in increasing economic cooperation with Iran.

Our deputy commerce minister then spoke about the history of political and economic relations between Iran and Sweden. He said that the volume of trade between the two countries is at its peak. On the Islamic Republic's principles on establishing commercial relations with various countries, he said: Our country is moving in a direction that will lead it to economic growth and development, as well as to independence and self-sufficiency.

Reportage on Visit of ROK Trade Official

Discusses Cooperation

LD1109110688 Tehran IRNA in English 1045 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 11, IRNA—South Korean Foreign Ministry's director for economic cooperation Yi Sok-cho discussed expansion of Tehran-Seoul commercial relations with head of Iran's chamber of commerce 'Ali Naqi Khamushi here Saturday.

Khamushi in the meeting stressed Republic of Korea's cooperation with Iran in the post-war reconstruction.

In response Yi expressed hope that meetings between the two country's officials would lead to the expansion of mutual ties in order that the two countries' economic and commercial needs be met in all areas. He also announced South Korea's readiness to cooperate with Iran particularly for techology transfer.

Yi accompanying South Korean minister of energy and resources Yi Pong-so arrived here Friday.

Confers With Musavi

LD1209232088 Tehran IRNA in English 1712 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 12, IRNA—Visiting South Korean Minister of Energy and Resources Yi Pong-so in a meeting here Monday with Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi hailed Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598 as a "brave move" and said peace along the Iran-Iraq borders is not only a major breakthrough for the region "but also for the whole world."

Yi, who has visited Iran's war damaged oil installations was all praise for Iranian specialists' prompt repair of the said installations. He told the Iranian premier that such examples showed that Iranians would lose no time in reconstructing the country.

He expressed hope the Islamic Republic and South Korea would have good cooperation in peace time and post-war reconstruction period.

Yi arrived here on Friday, September 9.

Meets With Deputy Oil Minister

LD1309175888 Tehran IRNA in English 1548 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 13, IRNA—Tehran-seoul trade exchanges and commercial cooperation were outlined in a ceremony marking the national day of the Republic of Korea at the 14th Tehran International Trade Fair here today.

South Korean Minister of Energy and Resources Yi Pong-so who is here for the trade fair, said that Iran has been a major oil supplier to his country since 1984. He also welcomed expansion of mutual ties.

Yi said the South Korean Government and people hope their technology and economic experiences would be helpful in Iran's post-war reconstruction.

In reply, Deputy Oil Minister for Planning Hadi Nedjad-Hoseynian said most of the Third World countries have friendly and close relations with Iran.

Nejad-Hoseynian also expressed readiness of local organisations and companies to expand commercial exchanges with their South Korean counterparts. Iran is seeking to increase its non-oil exports, he stressed.

Last Talks With Aqazadeh

LD1409194588 Tehran IRNA in English 1826 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 13, IRNA—The last round of talks between visiting South Korean minister of energy and natural resources Yi Pong-so and Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh was held here Tuesday.

The two sides announced their countries' interest in expanding mutual politial and economic relations including South Korean technical cooperation in Iranian oil Industries.

Aqazadeh underlined the need to study the formation of a joint economic commission, increase bilateral trade exchanges and expand mutual technical cooperation.

In response, Yi, expressing satisfaction with his earlier meetings with Iranian officials, said his presence here indicates the existence of common ties between his country and the Islamic Republic.

In another development today, head of South Korea's pavilion at the 14th Tehran International Trade Fair, which opened here yesterday, said his country was planning to substantially increase its oil imports from Iran.

In an exclusive interview with IRNA, Kim Jo-nam [name as received; not further identified] expressed regret that South Korea had not been able to participate in the Tehran fair at a desirable level before because of the Iraq-Iran war.

He also announced the Seoul Government's keenness to actively contribute towards post-war reconstruction projects in Iran by setting up new industrial plants and transferring necessary technology.

Larijani, Finnish Officials Discuss Relations

LD1409142288 Tehran IRNA in English 1142 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 14, IRNA—Expansion of Tehran-Helsinki ties in political and economic fields was discussed Tuesday afternoon in a meeting between the visiting Finnish foreign minister adviser Pekka Korvenheimo with Iran's deputy foreign minister for Europe and America, Mohammad Javad Larijani.

Korvenheimo said mutual relations could be broadened in political, economic and cultural fields. Referring to the presence of Finnish forces in the U.N. Iraq-Iran Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG), he said the Finnish commander of forces was pleased with Iran's cooperation with them.

Larijani outlined Iran's political stand and expressed hope that mutual ties would be strengthened in future.

Korvenheimo heading a 15-man delegation, is currently visiting Tehran on the occasion of the 14th Tehran International Trade Fair which opened here Monday.

Polish Construction Minister Meets Counterpart

LD1209232588 Tehran IRNA in English 1739 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 12, IRNA—Visiting Polish Construction Minister Bogumil Ferensztajn and Rasul Lahijanian in charge of Construction Jihad Ministry discussed purchase of heavy road building machinery and dredging and fishing ships by Iran, in a meeting here today.

The two sides also agreed that a 10-man delegation be despatched to Poland to be trained in the handling and maintenance of heavy machinery.

Pakistan

Afghan Protest Over Airspace Violation Rejected

BK1409154188 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Pakistan has rejected the protests by the Kabul authorities alleging that Pakistani planes and a helicopter violated Afghan airspace on 4 August and 7 September.

The Kabul administration's charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office today and was told the allegations have been investigated and found baseless.

Spokesman on Afghan Violations

BK1509112088 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] The Kabul regime committed 295 ground and 92 air violations of the Geneva accords between the 15th of May and the 18th of August. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that 29 persons were killed and 85 injured during ground violations and 13 persons were killed and 29 injured during the air violations of the Pakistani territory.

He pointed out that the United Nations Good Offices Mission on Afghanistan and Pakistan saw the places of the bombing by Kabul regime aircraft on the 5th, 7th, and 12th of this month.

In reply to a question, the spokesman described as absolutely baseless the allegation by the Kabul regime that Pakistan forces are engaged in mujahidin's actions.

He, however, said that Pakistan has made it clear that if Pakistani territory was shelled from across the border, we do have the right of self defense from our own territory.

In reply to another question, the spokesman said there are no Soviet prisoners on Pakistani soil and whenever Soviet prisoners were found, they were promptly returned to the Soviet Union.

French MP Visits Refugee Camp Near Peshawar

BK1309014488 Hong Kong AFP in English 0018 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Sept 13 (AFP)—A French MP said here Monday that France would continue to suport the "just cause of the Afghan people" in international forums.

The official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) quoted Deputy Michel Crepeau of the Left Radicals as saying that the "people of Afghanistan will completely succeed in liberating their land from foreign occupation," a reference to the nine-year Soviet occupation.

Mr. Crepeau arrived here Thursday, accompanied by Deputy Jean Francois Deniau of the opposition UDF [Union of French Democracy] grouping, to collect information about Afghanistan on behalf of the French Government.

Both men belong to the National Assembly's Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. Crepeau also promised to "ask the French Government to increase aid to Afghan refugees in Pakistan," AFP said.

"France will continue its support for the just cause of the Afghan people in international forums," he added.

Mr. Crepeau, who visited the Kacha Garhi refugee camp outside Peshawar where the seven-party rebel alliance is based, stressed that France had been sending 300,000 tons of wheat to the refugees every year.

While in Peshawar, Mr. Deniau and Mr. Crepeau met with political and military leaders of the Afghan resistance.

Following a meeting with Acting Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, the two men were to return to France late Tuesday.

Interior Minister Sees Foreign Hand in Clashes

BK1109055488 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Excerpt] The Senate tonight admitted two identical adjournment motions about the recent sectarian clashes in Hangu and Parachinar in which some people were killed. The motions were moved by Mr Tariq Chaudhry and Professor Khurshid Ahmad.

The interior minister, Malik Nasim Ahmad Ahir, welcomed discussion not only on the sectarian but also linguistic and other disturbances in various parts of the country. He said the government would welcome suggestions from members as to steps to overcome the problems. He agreed with the members that these disturbances were the work of saboteurs and were aimed at destabilizing the country at the instance of hostile foreign powers. [passage omitted]

Sri Lanka

PKF To Observe 5-Day Cease-Fire for Election

BK1409162388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the peacekeeping force [PKF] will observe a 5-day cease-fire from 0700 [0130 GMT] tomorrow morning. It will enable all Tamil militant groups wishing to take part in the elections to lay down their arms and support the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement.

This was announced by an official spokesman in New Delhi this evening. He said operational details of the cease-fire will be announced by the general officer commanding, peacekeeping force, Lieutenant General Kalkat.

The spokesman said the Government of India hopes that all Tamil groups will take advantage of this opportunity and come forward to join the mainstream and play an effective role in insuring the welfare of the people in the Northeastern Province.

He said New Delhi welcomes the Sri Lankan presidential announcement of holding of elections in the province. It believes early elections to the provincial councils are essential for restoring to the Tamils their political right. It will also ensure that the benefits of the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement accrue to them in full measure. The election announcement comes in the wake of a proclamation by the Sri Lanka president merging the Northern and Eastern Provinces.

Colombo has also started releasing the Tamil political detenues. Legislation to accord Tamil the status of an official language is also expected shortly.

The spokesman recalled that President Jayewardene on several occasions has reaffirmed his government's commitment to further improve the devolution package once elections for all the provincial councils have been completed. Polls have already been held in all other provinces. At this juncture, India feels that it is of the greatest importance that all Tamil groups use this opportunity to participate in the elections.

Every effort will be made to enable the widest possible participation in the electoral process. It is only by setting up a representative provincial government that the aspirations of the Tamils in Sri Lanka will be realized.

Situation Quiet in Colombo

BK1409143988 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1348 GMT 14 Sep 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 14 Sep (LANKAPUVATH)—The situation in Colombo and outstations was reported as quiet today, but for a few isolated incidents.

Police told LANKAPUVATH that groups of persons, claiming to be university students, had failed in their attempts to get secondary school students to demonstrate.

A gang of about 40 men, clad in coloured clothes, claiming to be university students had broken the high wall between the Colombo University campus and Royal College and asked the students to join them in demonstrations.

But the Royal College students had firmly refused to do so. The gang had then dragged out some students onto the grounds, when the police arrived.

A similar gang of intruders also forced their entry into adjoining Thurstan College, but went [word indistinct] the students refused to join in a demonstration.

A report from Peradeniya states that university students, who were demonstrating on Galaha road, heeded a call by the police and the university authorities and returned to the campus.

There was slight damage caused to a Sri Lanka transport board bus parked in front of Akbar hall [location of hall not given].

Two Tamil Groups Welcome Release of Detainees

BK1409163888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] The Tamil United Liberation Front—TULF—and Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Force—EPRLF—have welcomed the release of 115 Tamil detenues by the Sri Lankan Government from the Boosa camp yesterday. The two groups said it is a step toward normalization of the situation before holding election in the Northeastern Province.

The general secretary of the TULF, Mr Amirthalingam, expressed the hope that the remaining detenues will also be released soon. A spokesman of the EPRLF also expressed similar sentiment.

Meanwhile, 30 LTTE men were apprehended by the Peacekeeping Force in the northeastern province—14 of them were detained in the Batticaloa sector, 12 in Trincomalee and the others in Jaffna and Vavuniya sectors. Large quantities of arms and ammunition were recovered.

In an ambush faced by LTTE in the Vavuniya sector, six Peacekeeping Force personnel, including two officers, were killed.